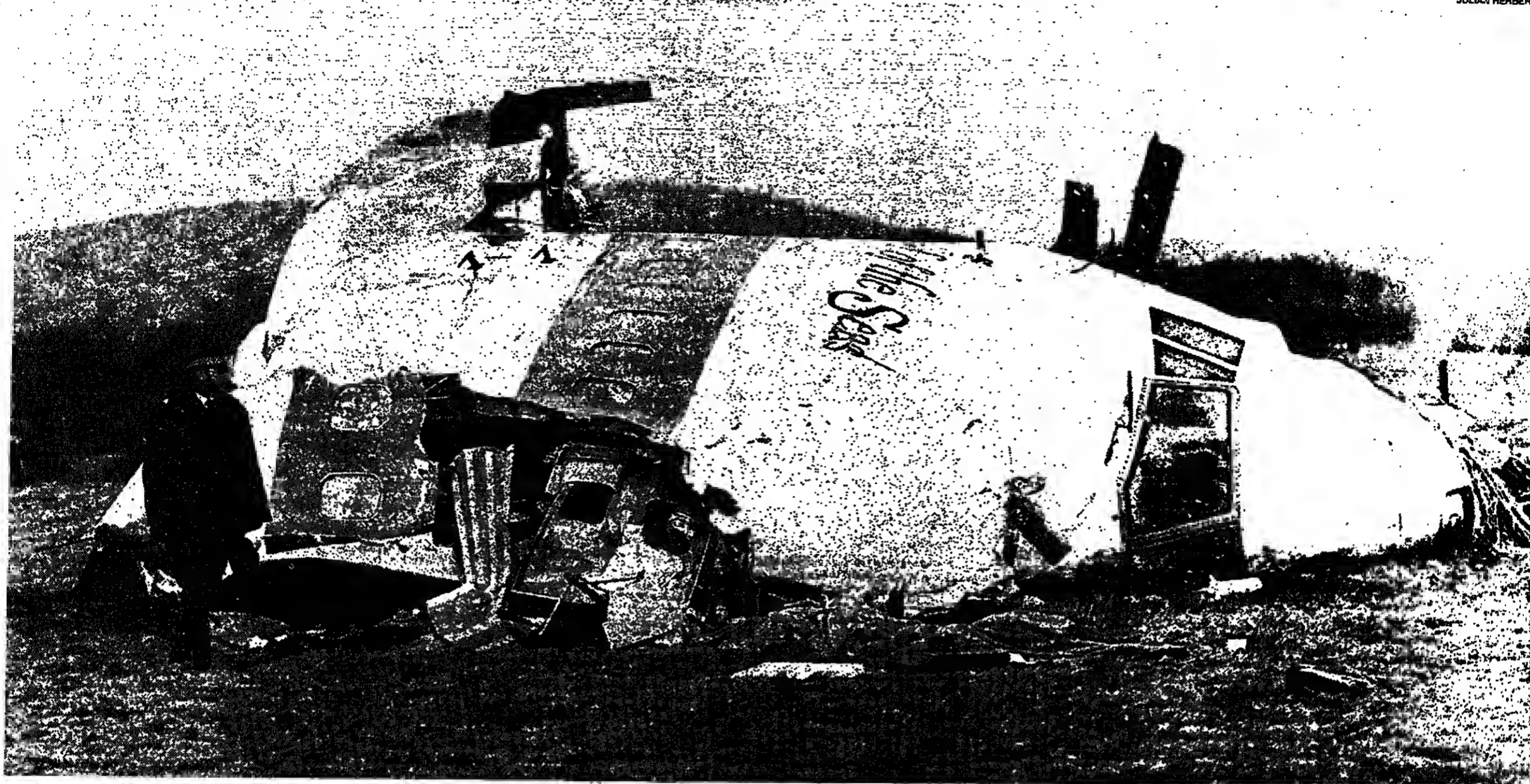




Terrorist sabotage feared as jet crash death toll reaches 275

US was warned of bomb threat

JULIAN HERBERT



The wreckage: Lying in a field outside Lockerbie, the cockpit of Pan Am Clipper Maid of the Seas. The flight deck itself, surprisingly intact, will provide investigators with vital clues.

Embassy bulletin told of terror plan

TO: All Embassy Postboxes... SUBJECT: Threat to Civil Aviation... Post has been notified by the Federal Aviation Administration...

The warning: Section of the letter posted in the US Embassy in Moscow.

By Michael Evans, Stewart Tendler and Robin Oakley

An international dispute was developing last night over two apparently unheeded warnings that a Pan Am plane would be blown up, as the death toll in the Lockerbie air disaster reached 275.

One of them clearly specified that a terrorist plot would involve a flight this month to the United States from Frankfurt, where the doomed Pan Am Flight 103 originated.

Both warnings were phoned to US embassies, and in Moscow warnings were posted on bulletin boards. The Americans claim they told all the necessary security organizations.

However, last night Heathrow and Frankfurt airport officials denied they were ever told.

Although crash investigators have yet to decide what caused the crash, which is now believed to have killed at least 17 people.

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including four children, on the ground as well as all aboard the Boeing 747, the theory was hardening last night that it was a bomb.

The warnings of a bomb plot were separate and specific and referred to an imminent terrorist attack on a Pan American transatlantic flight.

They were passed to the US Government from Israeli intelligence and a Middle Eastern informant, it emerged yesterday.

One of the warnings suggested that an innocent woman passenger would be used to take a bomb on board.

Yesterday a group calling itself the Guard-

ians of the Islamic Revolution claimed they had brought down the aircraft in revenge for the US Navy attack on an Iranian Airbus over the Gulf in the summer when 290 people were killed.

In Washington, it was revealed that the US ambassador to Lebanon had intended to be on the flight, but had been delayed in Nicosia.

Investigators from the US National Transportation Safety Board working at Lockerbie reported back to the White House yesterday that all three communications radios on Pan Am Flight 103 and the plane's two transponders went dead at exactly the same second. They said this signalled an instantaneous and total loss of power to the cockpit, which was due to an "explosive decompression".

The officials said this decompression could have been caused by structural failure, but it was also what would occur as a result of a bomb explosion.

As terrorist explosives experts from the Ministry of Defence began examining the wreckage, Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch started a check of the passenger list. Senior police sources said they were convinced it was a bomb and emphasized that it would only take a small device in the right place to destroy the aircraft, especially if the Semtex plastic explosive was used.

It is believed that, as the Pan Am flight took off from Heathrow 25 minutes late, the bomb was planned to explode over the Atlantic, leaving little or no wreckage from which to pinpoint the cause of the crash.

Last night there was considerable confusion over what steps were taken and who had been directly informed after the warnings of a terrorist attack.

In Washington, Mr Ronald Spiers, an under-secretary of state, said the US Embassy in Helsinki, Finland, had received a telephone threat two-and-a-half weeks ago. A man with a Middle Eastern accent described how a Pan Am airliner flying from Frankfurt



The crater: Aerial view of the 30-foot deep hole gouged by the jumbo through the town.

to the US via Heathrow would be the target of a bomb attack.

The informant who claimed to belong to the Binational Palestinian Abu Nidal terrorist organization, said that a woman would take the bomb on board the plane.

Mr Spiers said US embassies, the Federal Aviation Authority and American airlines were notified of the threat.

In a separate warning, Mossad, the Israeli secret intelligence service, also tipped off the US Embassy in Bonn that an attack was likely. Pan Am said in New York that it had received notification from "various sources"

that there was the possibility of a threat against an airline in New York. A spokeswoman said: "We immediately acted and put supplementary security procedures in effect, not only at Frankfurt but at airports around the world."

However, in Frankfurt, Herr Harald Kosei, chief spokesman for Pan Am, said: "I know of no warning about an attack on one of our aircraft, nor do I know if the US embassy alert was passed to our company. I have also checked today with the Frankfurt airport director, who also had no knowledge of any such warning."

Search for groups with hate motive

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

One of the problems facing security chiefs in the wake of the Pan Am crash is that many different terror groups could have had motives for wanting to destroy the aircraft.

Although sabotage remained unproven yesterday, security services were already assessing which groups were most likely to be implicated.

The most likely culprit was thought to be the Abu Nidal organization, a radical Palestinian faction which broke away from the PLO. A man

who telephoned the American Embassy in Helsinki on December 5, saying that a bomb would be placed on a Pan Am plane by a woman, claimed he belonged to Abu Nidal.

The security services discounted early suggestions that Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, might have been involved. These were based on a claim by Mr Yassir Abdel-Rabbo, the leader of the Palestine Liberation

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THE habitat SALE

Microscopic clues that may yield vital secrets

By Harvey Elliott Air Correspondent

A tiny dent in a fragment of metal could prove conclusively whether the Pan Am jumbo jet which crashed in Scotland was the victim of a terrorist bomb.

Investigators from the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch are already examining pieces of the wreckage under microscopes - and measuring

the depth of every indentation. If they discover that the metal has been compressed by a tiny object travelling at the speed of 24,000 ft per second they will begin to give scientific credibility to the strong circumstantial evidence which now indicates that PA 103 was blown apart by a bomb smuggled aboard in luggage stowed in the aircraft's hold. Long years of patient research have proved that, if a bomb is detonated in the cabin of an

aircraft, fragments smash into their surroundings at a speed at least ten times that at which they would do so if the jet broke up in mid-air and the internal pressure escaped.

They will also be looking for minute traces of burns or of the explosive itself in the backs of seats and the bodies of the victims.

The bright orange "black box" flight and voice recorders have been recovered from the crash site and

immediately after Christmas the tapes will be removed from their crash-proof housing and played time and again. A computer will then make a "fingerprint" of the noise inside the cabin. If the "fingerprint" matches that of known bombings then this, too, will help to turn the theory of a bomb into fact. They will also interview every available witness to try to build up a detailed picture of how the aircraft broke up and study

every item of the wreckage to establish a sequence of events.

A bomb seems to be the most likely explanation. The accident is virtually a carbon copy of that which destroyed an Air India jet off Ireland. That aircraft vanished from radar screens at exactly the same height as PA 103. An Indian inquiry said the accident had been caused by a bomb, though no firm evidence could be found to prove that one had been on board.

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HABITAT WINTER SALE COMPANY

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THE LOCKERBIE JET DISASTER

Sabotage theory mounts among MPs

JAMES GRAY

Bomb aboard or structural defect feared

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, gave details of the Pan Am Flight 103 disaster to a hushed House of Commons yesterday as the belief grew among politicians that sabotage was the most likely cause of the crash.

Though Mr Channon and Mr John Prescott, the Opposition spokesman, who called the disaster a "nightmare come true", agreed that it would be wrong to speculate so soon on the reasons for the greatest disaster in British aviation history, MPs rapidly made plain their suspicions that a bomb had been planted.

News that the two flight recorders had been found was passed to Mr Channon while he was making his statement. But he had already told MPs that the last contact with the pilot, two minutes before the disaster, was a routine one and that the radar returns from the aircraft had split into several pieces at the plane's last known position. Wreckage had been spread over a 10-mile swathe.

Most MPs believed that the clear implication was either that one of the safest aircraft in the world had suffered a sudden and total structural failure or that, far more likely, there had been an explosion on board.

Mr Channon, who has indicated that a preliminary report on the causes of the disaster will be published in two to three weeks, confirmed that there was no indication of any other aircraft in the vicinity at the time.

At the later press conference he said that the plane had "simply disappeared from the radar screen" and acknowledged that it was "virtually certain there would be no survivors".

Mr Channon refused to comment later on reports that American embassies had been warned that a bomb would be planted on a Pan Am flight and he denied that any special alert had been in force in recent days. He described stories of reports emanating from Moscow about a bomb threat to a US plane as "speculation at this stage".

He refused to comment on claims of sabotage by a Middle Eastern terrorist group, but promised that if any steps needed to be taken to stiffen security or safety measures they would be taken rapidly.

Mr Channon said: "The security record at Heathrow and Gatwick has been extremely good. There is no evidence that it has failed on this occasion".

In the Commons and at a later press conference Mr Channon was closely questioned by MPs on whether passengers would have been able to board the flight at Frankfurt and then leave at Heathrow while their baggage was transferred to the separate plane continuing the flight to New York.

Mr Channon said that it should not be possible for that to happen but refused to be definitive.

Department of Transport officials said that rules specified that "baggage reconciliation" procedures should be adopted if pilots found themselves with fewer passengers for a continuing leg of a flight than they should have; the remaining passengers should have to identify their luggage and any bags found without an owner still travelling should be removed.

In his responses to questions Mr Channon said that his department had been trying to get more telephone lines installed at Heathrow for people seeking to inquire about friends or relatives who may have been on the flight after complaints from MPs that the existing lines had been permanently engaged.

But he defended the authorities' refusal to release the full passenger list in the early hours after the tragedy, saying that it was a difficult balance to achieve. Many alterations were made at the last minute, the flight had not been full and he could understand the reluctance.

When Mr David Steel, Democrat MP, pressed for low-lying RAF exercises in the area of the crash to be suspended over the Christmas period, Mr Channon promised to pass on the request to the Ministry of Defence.

He also promised a speedy response to MPs who pressed for rapid financial and other help to the people of Lockerbie and surrounding areas.

Mr Channon was less sympathetic, however, to a suggestion that international flights should be re-routed over the sea rather than flying for as long as the Pan Am flight had done over land.



A wardrobe stands undisturbed amid the devastation of Lockerbie. The wreckage of these houses spilled on to the A74 and into the gardens of neighbouring houses.

Police begin the checks on passengers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

As the possibility of sabotage grew yesterday, Scotland Yard announced that Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist branch, would coordinate London police investigations.

First task for the police is to check the backgrounds of all passengers with American and West German agencies.

In recent years, West Germany has been a prime area for Arab terrorist attacks on American targets, culminating in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque.

One of the men later held for bomb attacks was a relative of Nezar Hindawi, who tried to blow up an El Al aircraft bound from London two years ago.

The Hindawi device, produced by his Syrian allies,

showed how it is possible to get an explosive past the security screening and on to an aircraft. He planted the bomb in the luggage of his pregnant Irish girlfriend, but it was found by a suspicious El Al security man.

The bag passed through the X-ray machine but the Israelis and police found 3lbs of Semtex, a Czech-made military high explosive, taped to the base in a double lining.

The explosive would have been set off by a timer and detonator built into a calculator placed in the bag by Hindawi.

Hindawi's plan would have succeeded but for the high security consciousness of the Israeli airline.

Bombs can be concealed in the hand luggage of unwitting passengers in a transit lounge or put on board an aircraft among duty free goods.

One important area for police will be to trace passengers who only flew from Frankfurt to London and did not continue the flight. Such passengers might have left luggage behind which was transferred on to the flight to New York. Did the airline page a missing passenger in the period before take-off? Did someone pass through the immigration channels at Heathrow from the flight and then vanish?

Police are also likely to try and check on anyone who joined the flight at Frankfurt or London after arriving from the Middle East or the Mediterranean area. Special Branch and immigration records at

Heathrow will be checked for anyone who might in retrospect raise suspicions.

Police are also likely to explore the state of security checks at Heathrow for embarking passengers, checks on their luggage and the routine for moving luggage from the Frankfurt flight to the New York-bound aircraft.

Yesterday, a spokesman for Heathrow Airport said there were no irregularities or anomalies in airport security for the flight.

Baggage checks were carried out by the airline while passengers and their hand luggage were screened. The spokesman said the airport authorities had received no warnings from Pan Am of any threat.

Heathrow and Frankfurt are rated among the world's most secure airports, but security experts accept that the weak link in the system is the sheer volume of unsearched luggage checked into aircraft holds. It is almost impossible to search every suitcase and the assumption remains that a passenger travelling in the same aircraft as his luggage is unlikely to blow himself up.

Luggage on Pan Am flight 103 might have been checked in at Frankfurt and put on to the New York flight at Heathrow without being seen by its owner. It is unlikely that it would have been examined at any stage.

At Heathrow yesterday, it was a different story. Travellers faced increased hand-baggage checks, with particular emphasis on transatlantic flights.

Terrorist likely to have died in crash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The terrorist who may have smuggled a bomb on board the Pan Am jumbo must have been, in his terms, incredibly lucky and probably a martyr to his cause.

Passenger luggage is stowed either in the front baggage hold or in the rear cargo hold almost on a random basis.

Had a bag been put inside a metal container and housed in the rear cargo compartment of the jet it is unlikely that it would have so damaged the aircraft that the pilot was unable to give an indication of trouble.

The rear cargo compartment of the jet which crashed was strengthened in September last year as part of a modification to make the 747 capable of being used by the military in time of war.

A giant new door was added which could have been used to load freight. The floor was also strengthened to take the additional weight and this added further protection to the 135 miles of wiring, cables and hydraulic lines in the fuselage.

If, however, it had been placed in the front cargo compartment it would not have had the same protection and would have been only a few feet from the main electronic bay where the aircraft's essential computers and electronics are housed. An explosion there would have disabled the aircraft immediately.

But to get a suitcase into either hold the terrorist would have had to be on board. Pan Am, like most airlines, now insists that each item of luggage is "reconciled" with a passenger.

Had the terrorist checked in the bomb at Frankfurt it would have been subjected to electronic scrutiny which should have picked it up. But even the most rigorous check can fail and airlines now insist that each item of baggage must respond to a label on the ticket both at the boarding airport and at any transit stop.

Duke of York sees devastated town

The Duke of York saw for himself the devastation in Lockerbie yesterday and said: "What I have seen will leave a lasting impression".

After spending an hour touring the area and meeting townspeople, he said he felt sad for Lockerbie, but even more distressed for the American families who had lost relatives. He had earlier called the disaster "horrifying".

The Duke, wearing naval uniform, said: "I've been particularly impressed by the emergency teams. Duffries and Galloway has had a tough time in the last 24 hours and the emergency services have been particularly valuable."

He said teams of troops were working through the wreckage and he saw RAF search and rescue teams and helicopters at work.

The Duke said he had spoken to people who saw the ball of flame engulf the town. "They were all extremely stunned".

Although he said he had spoken to some of the investigators, he refused to speculate on the cause of the crash. "A lot of work is still to be done and I'm not going to speculate; that's a matter for them."

The Duke spoke to some people who live behind the town's police station, where part of the plane's fuselage crashed into a house.

"I was told by one resident how they managed to get an elderly lady out of her kitchen where she was trapped, with her two dogs."

The Duke, a Navy helicopter pilot, said such disasters did not put him off flying. "There is an element of risk in all flying and if you allow yourself to worry you would not do it."

After arriving in Lockerbie by car from Rosyth, where he was on his ship, HMS Edinburgh, the Duke visited the police station and the military co-ordination centre at Lockerbie Academy.

As he left to visit disaster scenes, he spoke to Mr Charles Price, the US Ambassador, who said: "He expressed his great feeling of sorrow and sadness over the devastation that had taken place and the loss of life."

Thatcher extends sympathy

By Kerry Gill

Mrs Margaret Thatcher spent several harrowing hours visiting the sites where wreckage of the Boeing 747 now lies. She later emerged from the local police station looking grim faced to say: "It is beyond one's expectations. It is almost beyond one's imagination or comprehension."

Clearly moved by the horrific sights of the crash and bodies constantly being ferried in by helicopters, she added: "You have to see it to realize how bad it is. I would like to say to our American friends that the bodies are being dealt with with the greatest possible dignity, care and sensitivity."

Mrs Thatcher said she had sent a message of sympathy to President Reagan before leaving for Scotland yesterday morning. "It is not only terrible for the people of this town and for Scotland, but for United States citizens as most of the people on board are their people."

Asked if it had been confirmed that the plane's destruction had been caused by an explosion, she said: "They are looking for evidence, and we must really wait."

She said the disaster had been a traumatic experience and rescuers and investigators were as anxious as anyone to find out what had happened. "I can only say that it is even worse in daylight than it



Mrs Thatcher is shown the site where part of the jet's fuselage left a 20-ft crater next to the A74 Carlisle to Glasgow road.

appeared on television at night. You can see the full enormity of the damage and the way in which pieces of aircraft and twisted metal were scattered over a wide area. It is just terrible."

Mrs Thatcher said she had gone to the site where the Boeing's cockpit section lies on a grassy knoll barely 100 yards from a church. "As you can imagine it was a grief-stricken experience. I am enormously impressed with the work of the emergency services. They are not short of expert help of any kind."

Mrs Thatcher added that there were 600 people involved in going through fields searching for and retrieving bodies.

Mr John Jameson, chief executive of Dumfries and Galloway council, earlier said rooms had been set up at the local school for those evacuated from their homes.

He said the back-up services had done a particularly good job. "We didn't really appreciate the extent of the disaster until first light."

Different kind of dying puts Lockerbie in year's litany of tragedy

By Brian James

Amid the speeding police and rescue teams, the TV crews and the VIPs, just one vehicle moved slowly up Lockerbie High Street yesterday. A hearse. As it carried a resident to the cemetery, elderly men raised their hats and a PC saluted; until yesterday that was the sort of dying that Lockerbie was used to.

The people of this grey little town, before Wednesday a mere flick of the eyes for people in cars speeding to Glasgow on the A74 but now qualified to stand beside Leninakan in the litany of the year's tragedies, seemed sucked in upon themselves. They scarcely glanced up at the swarming helicopters, and certainly looked no higher to the

contrails in the blue sky. Conversation consisted of a few whispers and many shaking heads. Amid nightmare, normality was something to cling to or, if necessary, create.

Between two houses where gangs were patching torn roofs, a man dug himself an ornamental pond. In those streets less badly affected, pieces of the appalling steel debris that a jumbo had become, was placed in neat piles by the kerb.

As usual when madmen or malicious nature decide to celebrate Christmas by taking the lives of the innocent, it was the fairy lights and the tinsel that brought the tears.

Lockerbie's town hall, over which the wreckage of PA 103 flew in flaming pieces on its way to kill 17 of the town's

residents as well as all of those who had been on board, is a grey street's one concession to frivolity. It boasts turrets like a Swiss castle. And at this time of year it also brandishes the civic Christmas tree and twinkling lights. Until yesterday, when someone went in and turned off the twinkle because the town hall had become a temporary morgue.

Beside its doors parish notices crowd. "Dog minder wanted", "Bike for sale". Yesterday they made room on the board for four lists of those who had survived the fire in the worst-hit streets, handwritten additions had been made: "Family all okay - gone to mother's".

They led one small lady through the crowd. "See there, then, it says so... she's all right." She read the name slowly

and glanced up at the Christmas tree with a little half-gesture "at a time like this", and then the tears flooded. At a time like this.

That's what they were saying to each other, too, in the long lines of little black figures combing the green hills to the west where the plane had begun to fall apart. The searching had been going on since daylight. Even so there were far too many moments when they had to plant another pole with a white flag and send for a blanket to cover a body. Clothing, wrapped presents, items of an airline meal - all were noted, marked down or collected, the gay detritus of people flying across the world to celebrate a time of goodwill.

Knowing the force of the impact, seen

in the evidence of the blackened ruins on the fringes of the town and spasmodically in its centre, Lockerbie watched with grey faces as platoons of Highland infantry carrying entrenching tools filed silently up the high street to begin climbing the hills. No one wanted to give words to what might face them for, as an official had put it, "discovery is finished... recovery has begun".

But at least they were professionals. John Rennie who farms up at the top of the hill of the Tunderparth Road had no training for his worst hour. He had been training for rugby when the bang sent him racing home. He took a flashlight and went into the darkness of his paddock where he found 21 bodies.

"It wrecked me. I felt so helpless."

There was nothing to be done for any of them. But one was just a kid. Just 20. I picked up his ID card for the police. He was so pathetic sprawled up against my fence.

"He was going home to his parents and I suppose..."

The hills to the west where the plane began to break up, the golf course on which it left 60 bodies, these had all remained sealed from dawn, partly because investigators need to work undisturbed, partly because the horror needed to be decently shielded.

Up there is where the people of Lockerbie take their Sunday walks, walks that will never be the same again now that they have had demonstrated to them a very different way of dying.

THE LOCKERBIE JET DISASTER

The final resting place of Flight 103

JULIAN HERBERT



In the shadow of the graveyard at Lockerbie, the flight deck of Pan Am's PA 103 lies almost undamaged, belying the violent and sudden end of its journey to New York nearly two days ago. It may hold the answer to the cause of the airliner's crash — whether it sheared off because of the age of the jumbo jet, because of an explosion, or whether it broke on impact with the ground and hurtled into the field to come to rest beside the gravestones.

Young lovers were among crash victims

An engaged couple, flying to New York on a Christmas shopping spree, were among the 258 people killed on board Pan Am's flight 103 at Lockerbie.

Mr Clayton Flick, aged 25, wanted to make a grand romantic gesture by buying his fiancée, Miss Claire Bacciocchi, her Christmas presents in New York.

Mr Flick, from Brandon, Coventry, and Miss Bacciocchi, aged 19, a hairdresser from Tamworth, Staffordshire, planned to marry in the new year.

He booked the flight at the last moment and travelled with his fiancée to Heathrow on Wednesday. They planned to return from New York on Christmas morning to have dinner with her parents.

Flora Swire, aged 22, another of the victims, bought a standby ticket for the flight from Heathrow to New York. She was due to meet her boyfriend there, who would have driven her to Boston, where she was planning to stay with friends for the Christmas holiday.

Friends and staff at Nottingham University, where she was studying for a PhD in neuro-physiology, described her as "an unusually bright and exceptionally able student".

Mr Rajesh Ramesh, aged 33, of Eastfield Court, Leicester, was planning a new life in the United States with relatives who live in New York.

He had worked as a computer operator for British Shoes for 10 years.

Mr Ben Gamadia, a close friend in Leicester, said yesterday: "He was emigrating, so we went out to have a farewell meal on Tuesday."

Mr Bernie McLaughlin, a computer sales director, caught the doomed flight with only minutes to spare. He left his Bristol office at 3.45pm on Wednesday, giving him about two hours to beat the rush hour, travel 130 miles to Heathrow and check in. Had the 6pm flight not been delayed 25 minutes, he might not have boarded. He was on his way to family in America when the plane crashed.

Mr Bill Cadman, aged 32, a sound engineer, lived and worked in London, where he was well-known in the pop music world. He organized the sound systems for the opening of the Tate Gallery at the Albert Dock and had also worked with the pop group Pink Floyd.

Mr David Trimmer-Smith, aged 50, vice-president of the Oxford University Press in the United States, was flying back to New York after a sales conference in Oxford. He would have spent Christmas

with his wife, whom he married only a month ago.

Dr Mridula Shastri, aged 24, a Rhodes scholar at St John's College, Oxford, was travelling to New York to visit her fiancé.

Mr Julian Benellow, aged 25, was a postgraduate student at King's College, Cambridge, working in the department of experimental psychology. A classics graduate from Yale University, he wanted to spend Christmas in Italy, but changed his mind at the last moment to fly home to New York.

Thirty-seven students from Syracuse University, New York State, were on the Pan Am flight, returning home after a term spent at the university's London base in Kensington.

Syracuse brings 250 students to London each year to pursue the British and European aspects of their courses. Those killed at Lockerbie were all in their early twenties, studying a wide range of arts and science courses. The university was in mourning yesterday.

One of the families hardest hit by the disaster were the Mulroys of New York. Mr John Mulroy, aged 59, director of communications for the Associated Press news agency, was flying home after a business trip with five members of his family, including his son, Sean, and his daughter-in-law, Ingrid.

Mr Frank Ciulla, aged 45, vice-president of the Chase Manhattan Bank in London, was returning home to be with his family at Christmas. A colleague said it was an extremely sad time for the bank. Two employees were lost in the Clapham Junction rail crash last week.

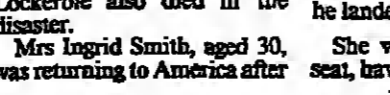
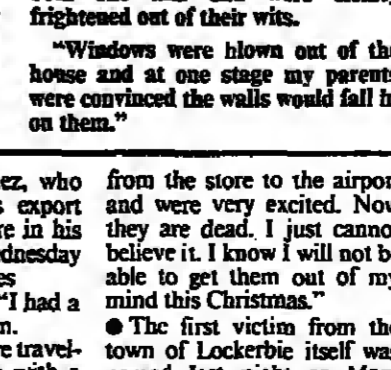
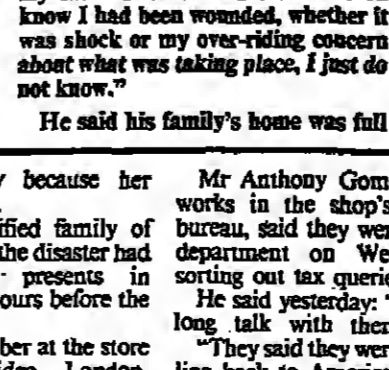
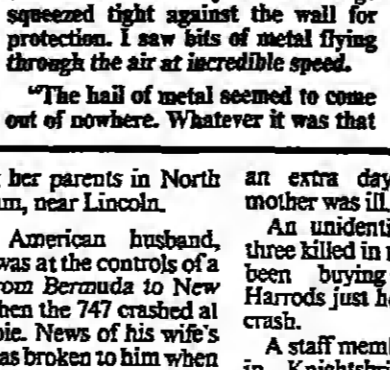
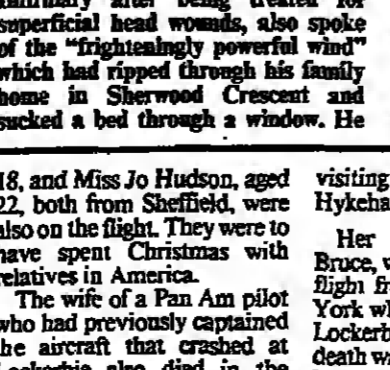
Two senior executives of Volkswagen America were also on board PA 103. Mr James Fuller and Mr Lou Marengo flew from Frankfurt to Heathrow aboard the Pan Am feeder flight after three days of business meetings at Volkswagen's headquarters at Wolfsburg.

Mr Fuller, aged 50, married with two children, was vice-president of Volkswagen's American operation. Mr Marengo, married with three children, was director of marketing.

Miss Melina Hudson, aged 16, the first American pupil at Exeter School, where she spent a term studying English, drama, Spanish and mathematics, was flying home to her parents in New York.

Miss Elizabeth Iwell, a teenager from Robertsbridge, East Sussex, was travelling to spend Christmas with friends in New York. Her mother, Katrina, was due to join her yesterday.

Miss Tracey Corner, aged



Townfolk say it was 'raining flames'

By David Sapsted

One youth thought it was the start of a nuclear holocaust and then dashed through the burning part of the town to find his parents. A passing driver remembered how he had outrun "an umbrella of flame".

And a widow recalled the horror of the burning plane passing over her home...and how, two hours later, she joined other evacuees to play bingo in the town centre.

Such were the memories yesterday of some of the 3,000 inhabitants of Lockerbie of the night PA 103 crashed, killing it is believed 275 people.

"It seemed to rain flame", Mr Bob Carnochan, aged 50, a coach company owner, said. He was driving along the A74 when he heard a "terrible noise...the combination of an explosion and a roar".

"Pieces of concrete started to rain down and bits of metal. The debris came crashing down on my Honda and the windscreen smashed, then a large piece of concrete smashed through the sunroof and landed on the seat next to me. I even found a rivet embedded in the panel."

Mr Robert MacTaggart, aged 17, a waiter, said he thought Lockerbie had been hit by a nuclear bomb when the aircraft crashed.

"I was working at the Somerton Hotel when I heard this rumbling sound outside. The curtains started shaking in the room and then suddenly it all lit up outside — like you'd expect a nuclear explosion to be."

"At that stage I thought it might be some sort of bomb but then I saw that the street outside the hotel was full of debris — huge bits of metal with bolts in them."

"I realized it must have been a plane: nothing else could have left stuff like that. I immediately thought about my parents — I knew they'd been shopping in town at the time."

"So I ran through the town looking for them and anyone else I knew to see if they were all right. Everyone else seemed to be doing the same. There were a lot of people rushing about and a lot of confusion."

His story had a happy ending, however, when he was reunited later with his parents at the family home, which suffered only superficial damage.

Mrs Jessie McKay, aged 74, described "an awful whooshing sound, like a gale" as the doomed aircraft passed over her house alongside the A74.

"How it missed our roof I don't know." But two hours later Mrs McKay was playing bingo with others. "It was the only thing we could think of to do. Everyone was so numbed and confused", she said.

'Frightening wind' sucked bed through window

By Ian Smith

A youth aged 17 described yesterday how he was wounded by a silver of aircraft metal as the "fireball" hit Lockerbie.

Ian Hamilton, waiting to be discharged from Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary after being treated for superficial head wounds, also spoke of the "frighteningly powerful wind" which had ripped through his family home in Sherwood Crescent and sucked a bed through a window. He

said: "I was walking near the filling station with my elder brother George when the world seemed to explode. Suddenly I saw a ball of fire appear over the top of the garage."

"There was an explosion and wreckage started falling down. I started to run away while George squeezed tight against the wall for protection. I saw bits of metal flying through the air at incredible speed."

"The hail of metal seemed to come out of nowhere. Whatever it was that

exploded did not hit the filling station. It seemed to be behind the garage and that almost certainly saved our lives."

"It was not until we thought we were safe to move and ran towards our house that a neighbour stopped me and pointed to the blood pouring down my face. Until then I did not even know I had been wounded, whether it was shock or my over-riding concern about what was taking place, I just do not know."

He said his family's home was full

of wreckage. "I don't know what miracle saved my parents but they told me of the whirlwind which had carried a bed out of a third floor window and sent it tumbling onto the pavement."

"Mum said that at one point she thought the chimney was on fire and both she and dad were clearly frightened out of their wits."

"Windows were blown out of the house and at one stage my parents were convinced the walls would fall in on them."

18, and Miss Jo Hudson, aged 22, both from Sheffield, were also on the flight. They were to have spent Christmas with relatives in America.

The wife of a Pan Am pilot who had previously captained the aircraft that crashed at Lockerbie also died in the disaster.

Mrs Ingrid Smith, aged 30, was returning to America after

visiting her parents in North Hykeham, near Lincoln.

Her American husband, Bruce, was at the controls of a flight from Bermuda to New York when the 747 crashed at Lockerbie. News of his wife's death was broken to him when he landed.

She was given a stand-by seat, having stayed in England

an extra day because her mother was ill.

An unidentified family of three killed in the disaster had been buying presents in Harrods just hours before the crash.

A staff member at the store in Knightsbridge, London, served the American couple and their teenage daughter on the morning of the tragedy.

Mr Anthony Gomez, who works in the shop's export bureau, said they were in his department on Wednesday sorting out tax queries.

He said yesterday: "I had a long talk with them. They said they were travelling back to America with a party from Syracuse University. They were going straight

from the store to the airport and were very excited. Now they are dead. I just cannot believe it. I know I will not be able to get them out of my mind this Christmas."

The first victim from the town of Lockerbie itself was named last night as Mary Lancaster, of Sherwood Crescent, the street most devastated by falling debris.

Britain defies European ruling

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Britain is refusing to comply with a European Court ruling that terrorist suspects must be charged and brought before a court within four days.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, told MPs that it was derogating, at least for the time being, from the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to allow police to continue to be able to detain suspects for up to seven days.

Britain's anti-terrorist laws were held to be in breach of the European convention.

The derogation, under which Britain will withdraw only from parts of the conventions that cover detention, will give the Government more time to consider the European Court judgement and to find a way to

introduce a judicial element into the period of holding terrorist suspects for questioning. It has been considering how a judge, magistrate or legal panel could consider police requests for extensions.

But Mr Hurd told the Commons standing committee on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill that further reflection and consultation was necessary. He said the Government wished to find a judicial solution. His remarks gave MPs the clear impression that if the Government cannot find a satisfactory solution the withdrawal will be permanent.

The European Court ruled that the detention of four men for more than four days in 1984 breached the convention.

The Government's decision was denounced by the Labour Party. Mr Barry Sheerman, its home affairs spokesman, said the decision could harm international co-operation to

defeat terrorism. Mr Peter Archer, QC, a former Labour Solicitor General, said that derogations were supposed to be made only when war or other public emergencies threatened "the life of the nation".

Miss Marjorie Mowlam, the Northern Ireland spokeswoman, said the Government seemed intent on dragging Britain's reputation through the mud. "The Government has missed the chance to make progress towards restoring respect for the rule of law in Northern Ireland."

But Mr Hurd said the Government was determined police should continue to have the powers they needed to counter terrorism, and to be able to detain suspects for up to seven days.

Other countries held suspects "for months", but did not fall foul of the convention because of their system of examining magistrates.

"We are also concerned that information about terrorist inten-

tions, which often forms part of the case for an extension of detention, does not find its way back to the terrorists as a consequence of judicial procedures which, at least in the United Kingdom legal tradition, generally require someone accused and his legal advisers to know the information alleged against him."

The Government is unlikely to announce before the new year a decision on whether to request the Irish government to prosecute the terrorist suspect Father Patrick Ryan.

The news was given by Whitehall sources as the Metropolitan Police continued with interviews of about 60 witnesses who would need to be called if there were a trial under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. Britain cannot compel the witnesses to attend a court in the Irish Republic and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, considers their personal security is paramount.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Surrey murder suspect in court

An unemployed man aged 20 was remanded in police custody for three days yesterday, accused of murdering Mr Peter Hurburgh, aged 57, a hairdresser whose body was found trussed up in a field after his car was ambushed at Warringham, Surrey, last Friday.

Raphael George Rowe, of Sydenham, south-east London, appeared before magistrates at Reigate, Surrey, where he was also charged with attempting to murder Mr Tim Napier, aged 41, at his home in Oxley, Surrey, and with two counts of robbery.

Later a second man, aged 22 and also from Sydenham, appeared in Reigate Magistrates' Court facing the same charges. Mr Rowe will appear in court again on Boxing Day.

Crossbow evidence

Jane Salvesson, the London design consultant accused of killing another woman with a crossbow, has "authoritative" new evidence that will prove she is innocent, a court was told yesterday. Miss Salvesson, aged 35, is charged with murdering Miss Diana Maw on July 20 this year. Yesterday, Mr Brian Raymond, Miss Salvesson's solicitor, told Ealing Magistrates' Court that he had strong evidence to prove his client's innocence.

Bill to control racing

A Bill will be introduced next month setting up a British Racing Commission, covering horse and dog racing, betting and breeding. Mr Alan Meale, Labour MP for Mansfield, quashed all night outside the Commons' Public Bill Office to win the right to introduce the Bill. It is expected to receive its first, formal reading on January 24, but stands virtually no chance of getting through.

Strike call criticized

The National Association of Port Employers yesterday described a strike call by leaders of Britain's 9,500 registered dockworkers as "futile and wrongly directed". The Transport and General Workers' Union is to ballot the dockers on an indefinite national strike in defence of the National Dock Labour Scheme, which effectively guarantees them a job for life. It decided on the ballot after two employers - scrap-metal companies - on Clydeside refused carrier this month to use dockers registered with the scheme.

Hunt for girl's killer

Detectives hunting the killer of Gaynor Barry, aged 14, last night appealed for two men seen talking to her shortly before she disappeared to come forward. The girl was strangled after being sexually assaulted. Her body was found on Wednesday by an attendant at a multi-storey car park. She was attacked as she made her way to her karate lesson in Crowtree leisure centre, Smardenland. Her cousin said she saw Gaynor, of Rosemont, South Hylton, talking to the men, aged about 18, about 15 minutes before class.

Bomb blast soldier is jailed for 10 years

A young soldier was jailed for 10 years yesterday after a boy was scarred for life by his home-made bomb.

James Cobb, aged 19, voted the best recruit of his year by officers from the Second Battalion, Royal Green Jackets, wanted to see a stranger become the victim of his "morbid curiosity" the Central Criminal Court was told.

He planted the complex device in a busy area near his home, Michael Walsh, aged four, was playing when he picked up the bomb in a bottle, thinking it was a drink.

There was a huge explosion and he was turned into a fireball. Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, said it was a miracle the boy survived.

Cobb, of Haywards Gardens, Putney, south-west London, was found guilty of using explosives with intent to maim, harm, disgrace or cause serious bodily harm. He admitted possessing other explosives and 180 rounds of ammunition.

He told police: "I was bored and a bit depressed. I just wanted to see it go bang."

Mr Bevan said: "It was done out of morbid curiosity or some other unhealthy motive connected to his fascination with explosives."

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

A chartered accountant, Mr Douglas Wilson-Croome, from Bournemouth, Dorset, was the sole winner of yesterday's top Portfolio prize of £4,000. Mr Wilson-Croome, aged 33 and a reader of *The Times* since a student, plans to buy diving equipment.

Incendiary devices defused

Members of the Animal Liberation Front are believed to have planted further incendiary devices in stores.

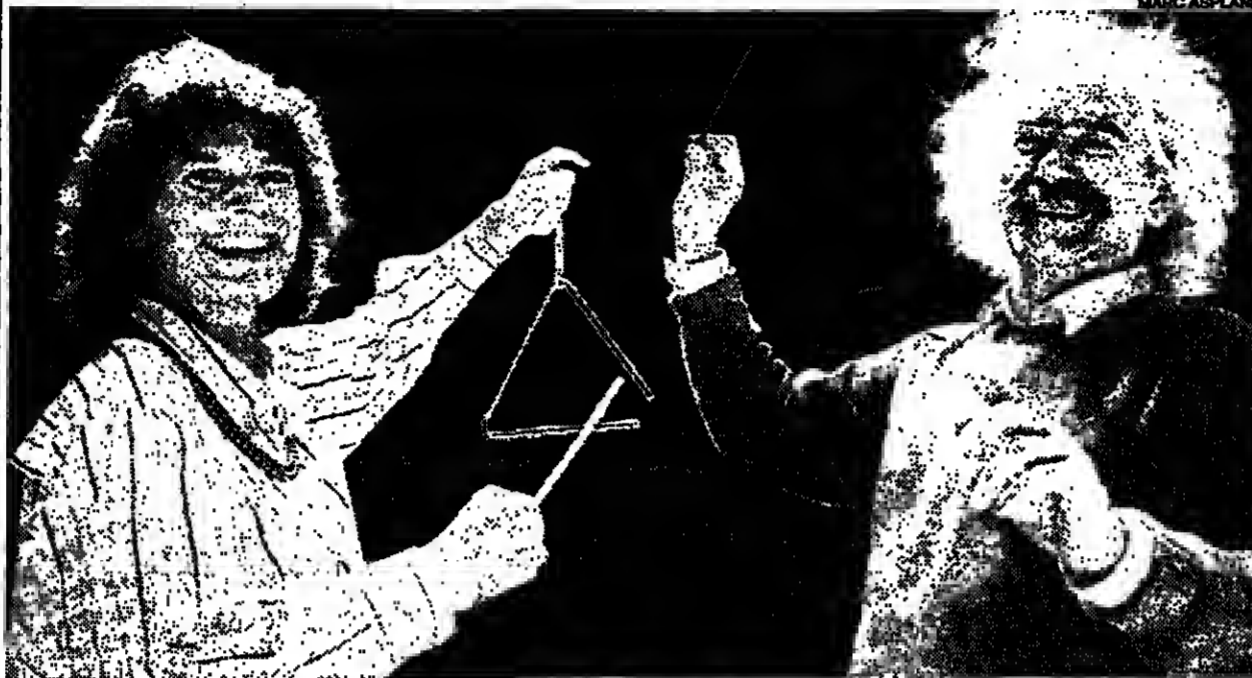
A man has claimed he was treated like a crank when he tried to raise the alarm about one of them.

The suspect packages were found in the men's clothing department at the Kendal Milne department store in Deansgate, Manchester, and in the stationery department at Lewis's in Ranelagh Street, Liverpool. Both were made safe.

Mr Brian Reid, of Clayton, Manchester, said a 999 operator refused to take him seriously when he told how a crossed telephone line allowed him to eavesdrop on the Manchester conspiracy.

He then tried to ring a city police station but failed to get through. Eventually he raised the alarm by telephoning a newspaper office.

Sound start to charity spot with LSO



Mrs Vivien Fisher, a housewife from Stroud, Gloucestershire, who bid £1,000 in the BBC Children in Need appeal to play with the London Symphony Orchestra, prepares for her moment of glory tonight at the Barbican with Ron Forfar, one of several stars from *Broad*, the comedy series, who are also joining the performance of the Toy Symphony, by Mozart.

IRA explosives cache Police scour London for unit

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard detectives are searching London for "safe houses" used by the IRA active service unit uncovered when a terrorist shot a would-be car thief, leading police to a massive bomb factory in Clapham, south London.

As the search continued yesterday, the Yard issued an artist's impression of the gunman. He is described as having a soft Irish accent, is aged about 30-35, and is 6 ft with dark, wavy hair. He walks with a slight stoop and may be wearing a full-length leather coat.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said police believed the gunman and a second man wanted for questioning were still on the British mainland.

Scotland Yard officers suspect that they and other members of the IRA unit may have used the Clapham flat

purely as a bomb factory and lived somewhere else in London.

The pair are thought to have used a range of false names and the two cars linked to them were bought or hired with false identities.

Police have raided up to 10 London addresses in search of the unit's headquarters. Mr Churchill-Coleman confirmed that their list included one residence in Leyton, north-east London.

Details of the two men in the Clapham flat have been sent to the RUC in Northern Ireland and the Garda in the Republic for possible matching against known IRA operators. Fingerprints are being matched with a huge IRA collection built up by the Yard since the 1970s.

Mr Churchill-Coleman said he could not fully explain what the gunman was doing when a youth of 18 apparently tried the door of the Renault car he was in.

The gunman was in the rear of the car, either sleeping or hiding. He shot the youth and ran to the flat. He and the second wanted man fled in a red Rover car, later abandoned in north London.



Artist's impression of the wanted man.

Currie was misled, consultant says

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mrs Edwina Currie, who resigned as Under Secretary of State for Health last week, was misled on statistics relating to salmonella contamination in egg production, an independent environmental health consultant said yesterday.

Mr Richard North, a former local authority officer who specializes in cases of food poisoning, said that, given her understanding of the information supplied to her, Mrs Currie would have been wrong not to say what she did in alleging that most egg production in Britain was infected by salmonella.

Mrs Currie has been invited to appear before the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture, which has also asked the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture to supply the briefing papers that were prepared for Mrs Currie.

"I honestly believe that she may have been set up", Mr

5 London hospitals to close

By Jill Sherman

Five London hospitals, the Westminster, St Stephen's, Fulham, Westminster Children's, the West London, and St Mary Abbots are to close by 1992 in a controversial plan to build a £135 million teaching hospital in west London.

The 660-bed Westminster and Chelsea Hospital will be built on the site of St Stephen's and will be paid for by the sale of the four other sites. The sale of St Mary Abbots alone is expected to raise enough money to build the new hospital.

Approving the programme yesterday Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said that the new hospital would greatly improve health services in the capital.

● The health service is losing more than £4 million a year from theft and vandalism, a report by the National Association of Health Authorities says today.

Cancer link with passive smoking

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The harmful effect of passive smoking, in which non-smokers inhale the fumes of smokers, has been shown in new research which establishes positively the link between cigarettes and lung cancer.

The findings also suggest that it is increasingly unlikely that a safe tobacco cigarette could ever be developed.

Scientists examined lung tissue of individuals who smoked between five and 40 cigarettes a day and found that the extent of damage to the strands of DNA at the heart of each cell, which control growth, is directly related to the number of cigarettes smoked. Non-smokers were included in the laboratory analyses by the research groups working with Dr David Phillips, at the Institute of Cancer Research, in London, and Dr Colin Garner, at York University, which used a sensitive new bioassay to identify chemical agents obtained during lung surgery.

Dr Phillips said more than 50 substances that are biologically active, and potentially damaging to DNA, were generated by burning tobacco.

The scientists had detected traces of these compounds in the cells of lung tissue from non-smokers. Unadulterated

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Gas leak confirmed as cause of Piper Alpha rig explosion

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The final technical report into the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster has confirmed that gas, fed into a partially dismantled valve, was the likely cause of the explosion.

The Department of Energy report, sent to Lord Cullen, who is to open the official public inquiry into the accident in Aberdeen on January 19, has ruled out any other likely cause.

Investigators considered several scenarios, but concluded that the explanation given in an interim report issued in September — that gas was fed into a valve that had been partially dismantled by maintenance workers — indeed caused the initial explosion on the rig late on the night of July 6. More than 160 rig workers were killed in the disaster.

Among the possibilities considered was sabotage, but the report said: "There is no evidence to suggest that the gas release and explosion was the result of an act of sabotage by anyone on the installation or elsewhere, and no allegations have been received to this effect."

Operational error and mechanical damage were also ruled out. "Operational or maintenance errors other than those already considered are [thought] unlikely in the absence of any evidence. "Accidental mechanical

damage is another possibility for which no evidence has been identified."

Other possibilities investigated and discounted included plugs of frozen gas liquids forming in pipelines and causing pipe ruptures, other pipeline and pressure vessel failures, and the failure of the platform flare-stack system — however, that was seen to be fully operational 75 minutes after the initial explosion.

The report confirms that new automatic shut-off systems in sub-sea oil and gas pipelines will be required to be installed in all existing oil and gas production platforms.

The oil industry estimates that fitting new shut-off systems could cost as much as £2 billion.

The report confirms that all the proposals for such systems submitted by the oil companies operating in the North Sea are being studied by departmental engineers and new regulations will be introduced to cover the fitting of such equipment.

Gas from sub-sea pipeline systems flowing back towards the burning Piper Alpha platform was a significant contributor to the fire that followed the initial explosion on the platform.

Mr Peter Morrison, the minister responsible for the offshore oil and gas industry, said yesterday that as any

Cataract scheme puts couple in focus

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mr Richard Money and his wife, Betty, who can see each other clearly after being helped by Operation Cataract.

By Emma Wilkie

Mr Richard Money and his wife, Betty, were having a clear look at each other for the first time for years on the beach at Worthing, West Sussex.

The huge improvement in their eyesight was thanks to Operation Cataract, a scheme funded by the Impact Foundation and Worthing Health Authority to make hundreds of such operations possible by looking after patients at a

hotel before and after surgery. Without the scheme, the Monneys would have had to wait until beds became available.

"It's a wonderful operation", Mrs Money, aged 75, said. "I can see my husband clearly for the first time. He jokes about it and says I did not realize how handsome he was."

The couple married only six years ago, at a time when both had failing eyesight. They had first met in Worthing when she

was still at school and were childhood sweethearts. They separated after three years, but were brought back together when both their spouses died in 1982. "I feel as though I am 25 years old again", Mr Money, aged 77, said.

The Impact Foundation, which deals with preventable or remedial disabilities, launched Operation Cataract last year with Worthing Health Authority. Since then 326 people have had their sight restored.

'Racist' taunt made after man is stabbed

A man was stabbed to death in a London street after being chased by black youths. Afterwards one of the group returned and is alleged to have told witnesses "that's what happens to racists", it was said yesterday.

Detectives hunting the gang said the victim must have been seen by dozens of people as he sprinted along North End Road, Fulham, south-west London, in a desperate attempt to escape.

He was caught outside the Old Oak public house, beaten and then stabbed at about 11.10pm on Wednesday night. The man, white but not yet identified, is believed to have been aged about 29.

An incident room has been set up at Kensington police station. Det Supt Roy Herridge, leading the hunt, said: "He was seen to be running along North End Road weaving in and out of traffic."

"He was caught outside the Old Oak pub, furiously beaten, punched and had his head banged against the pub wall and was kicked to the ground. He was stabbed, we think one stab wound to the heart."

"Given that it was just after pub closing time, that there would have been a lot of pedestrians around and that North End Road is very busy, there should have been a lot of witnesses to what happened."

Mr Herridge said: "Witnesses have told us that after the man had been stabbed one of the men returned to the scene about five minutes later.

Call to lift ban on contingency fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The lifting of the statutory ban on contingency fees, by which lawyers would do work on a "no win no fee" basis, was called for by a Law Society working party yesterday.

The move would be a first step towards allowing solicitors to take on cases without charging a fee if they lose, as allowed in Scotland; and to recoup their normal fee from any winnings, if successful.

The Government is likely to recommend that such arrangements be allowed in its Green Paper to be published next month.

The move would not necessarily lead to the American-style full-blown contingency arrangements, by which lawyers reap a percentage of any damages awarded.

The proposals have been drawn up to improve access to justice, in particular for those people ineligible for legal aid but who cannot afford litigation costs.

The present statutory ban prevents any kind of contingency deal, whether the US-style contingency arrangement, by which lawyers take a percentage of any damages awarded, or the Scottish "speculative funding", which enables solicitors there to agree to waive any fee if the case is lost. At the same time, the profession's own practice rules bar such arrangements.

In a working paper on improving access to justice, not yet endorsed by the Law Society Council, the working party comes down clearly in favour of "speculative funding".

Despite the statutory ban on formal arrangements, the practice is widespread and many solicitors take on per-

sonal injury cases, divorce, tribunal cases and even libel claims on the basis that if they lose, they will not claim a fee.

The report says Scottish arrangements should be brought into effect in England and Wales. It recommends that if the statutory ban was lifted, the Law Society should change its own practice rules accordingly.

On the American-style contingency fees, the working party draws no conclusion, although it does highlight what it sees as a number of disadvantages of such arrangements.

Mr Michael Churchhouse, chairman of the working party, said that contingency fees would only be relevant in a small proportion of cases; that is, those where damages were awarded.

The damages also had to be sufficiently large for solicitors' fees to come out of them at the end of the day, he said; and in England and Wales, unlike in the US, damages awards tended to be lower.

Another problem was that because of the courts' rule on costs, the loser in a case pays the legal costs of both sides, which does not happen in the US. So the person entering into a contingency fee arrangement was still at risk of losing money, he said.

The working party rejected a mutual insurance "fixed costs" scheme, whereby clients would pay a fixed sum into a fund. The fund would pay costs if the case was lost, but if won, the client would not recover his premium.

Improving Access to Civil Justice — Some Further Proposals (113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL).

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H. SAMUEL

BRITAIN'S LARGEST JEWELLER

Weekend food prices

Set the party going with a whole salmon

Fresh fish will be off most shopping lists now, but for pre-Christmas parties a whole salmon could be the answer if time is short. A small Scottish salmon at 7-4lbs costs about £2.80 a lb, 4-6lbs £3.20 to £3.60 and 8-10lbs £3.40 to £3.80 a lb. Norwegian salmon is even cheaper. Smoked salmon costs from £10.50 a lb and smoked trout from £8.

If you are looking for those meaty tiger prawns or cigales, Covent Garden fishmongers in west London might be your only source of supply. Fresh scallops are a good buy at 60p to £1.20 each or out of shell £7.90 a lb.

The supermarket price for turkeys seems to have settled at 98p a lb; fresh geese is more difficult to find but Sainsbury has it at £2.25 a lb and Sainsbury at £1.98 a lb. Frozen geese is £1.75-£1.80.

Ham is the perfect partner for hot or cold poultry. Sausage meat is £1 a lb at Sainsbury.

Most prime cuts are up in price but topside is on special offer at Asda for £2.17 a lb, Sainsbury for £2.18, and Tesco £2.19.

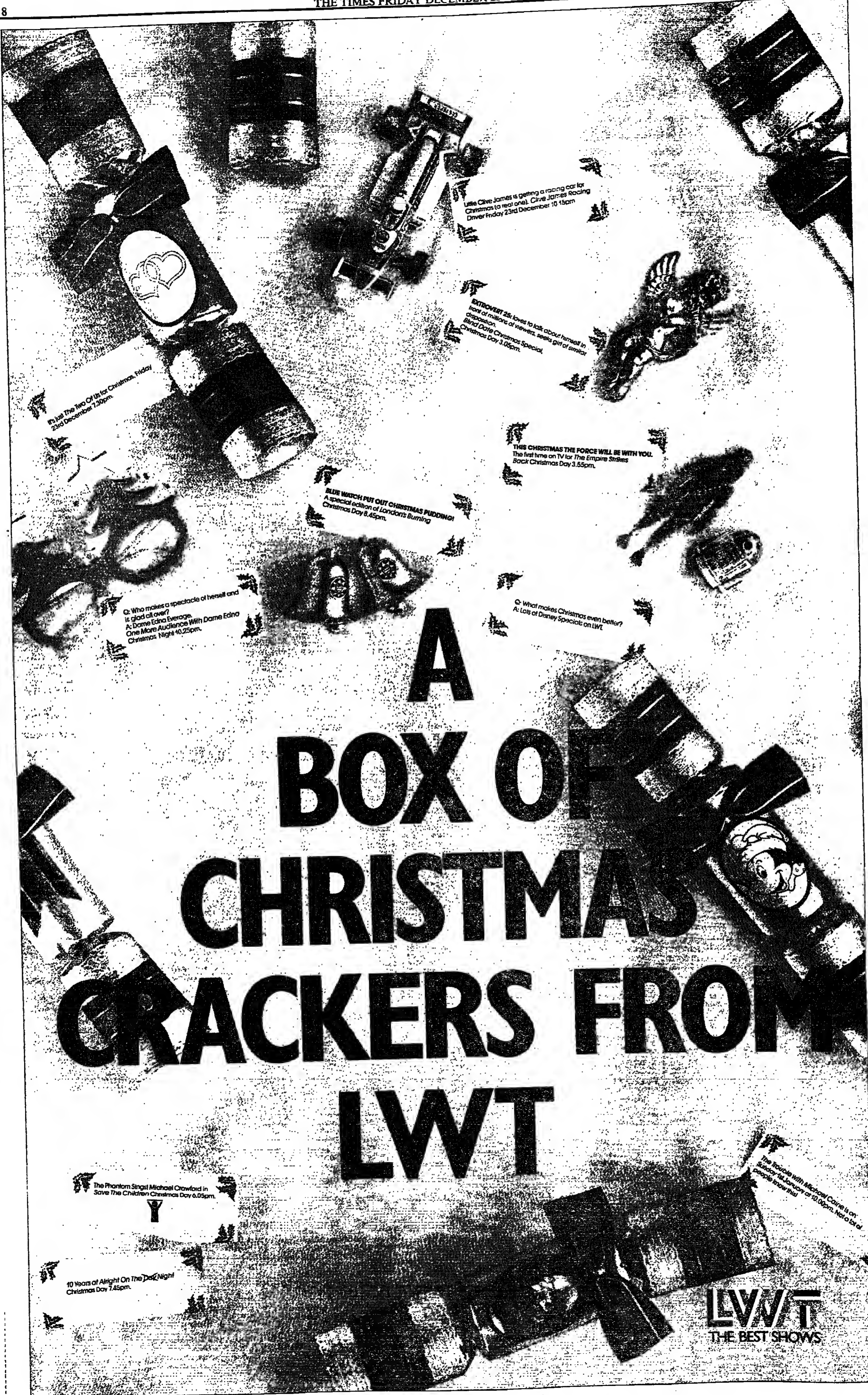
After rich Christmas food what could be nicer than a simple lunch of sausage and mash; Sainsbury has low-fat chipolatas at £1.18 a lb and

Waitrose has Lincolnshire sausages at £1.20 a lb. Marks & Spencer has a great selection of traditional recipe sausages. Bejam has excellent cocktail sausages. Lamb kidneys, at about 30p each, add a nice Victorian touch to breakfast.

There is a superb array of fruit and vegetables for Christmas. Home-grown produce is plentiful, good quality and prices are good. Cranberries are the pick of the week fruit. They cost 80p to £1 a half pound, which will make three-quarters of a pint of sauce. Citrus fruit is fantastic, particularly little clementines at 25-50p a lb. Satsumas 35-50p a lb and oranges are 8-25p each. Lovely red apples from Canada and America are 45-60p a lb, English Coxes 35-65p a lb and Bramley cookers 35-45p.

New crop Californian walnuts 80p to £1.20p a lb are superb quality. Chinese walnuts are 70p to £1 a lb. Filberts 70p-£1 a lb are in good supply due to a particularly good Italian crop. Brazils 75p-£1 a lb are scarce this year. Chestnuts are 90p to £1.25 a lb. Salads are slightly more expensive with round lettuce 30-40p a head, Icebergs 60p-£1 each, cabbages 60-80p each, tomatoes 40-50p a lb, and celery is 50-70p a head.

All items featured also available at all branches of JAMES WALKER. Prices apply to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Savings quoted are based on a comparison with the manufacturer's recommended selling price (RSP). Normally prices shown have previously been charged at all H. Samuel branches. Watch watches are sold at Manufacturer's Recommended Price. Some items are catalogued to show detail. H. Samuel Ltd, Haversham Road, Bovingdon, B19 1DG, Tel: 021-954 3871



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Little Clive James is getting a racing car for
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Driver Friday 23rd December 10.15pm

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Q: Who makes a spectacle of herself and
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A: Dame Edna beverage.
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Christmas Night 10.25pm.

Q: What makes Christmas even better?
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SPECTRUM

Solving the jigsaw of tragedy



As the painstaking task of sifting through the wreckage of the doomed Pan-Am Flight 103 starts at

Lockerbie, William Greaves talks to Frank Taylor (above), who trains men of the Air Accidents Investigations Branch



Never jump to conclusions: a wrecked light plane is used at the Aviation Safety Centre at Cranfield to teach trainee crash detectives to sift through all the evidence

The more evidence that comes in from around the world that the passengers on Flight 103 were murdered by a terrorist bomb, the harder the scientists and co-pilots of the Air Accidents Investigations Branch will strive to find a completely different reason for the tragedy.

For almost all of them will at one time have listened to the counsel that Frank Taylor, of the Aviation Safety Centre at Cranfield Institute of Technology, has offered to crash detectives from all over the world for the past 11 years: never jump to the obvious conclusions.

"If you have a theory, the only way to test it effectively is to rule out all the alternatives," Taylor said yesterday. "If you try hard enough to prove something you will do so — and it will be by suppressing all the pieces of information that don't fit neatly into the jigsaw."

Every member of the 30-strong team at Lockerbie who joined the AAIB after 1977 will have attended one of Taylor's eight-week courses at Cranfield and, among other exercises, will have sifted through the wreckage of a simulated crash into which the course director will have deliberately planted enough false trails to lead all but the most wary up the wrong channel of inquiry.

And all of them will know that they need look no further than the Munich crash of 1958, in which the bulk of the Manchester United football team died, to understand the wisdom of meticulous investigation — however apparently obvious the cause. "The head of that team had experienced the hazards of icing on wings, and was so certain that that was the principal factor that it was 11 years later before it was proved to be slush on the runway. There cannot be any doubt that evidence was suppressed on that occasion," Taylor says.

The Lockerbie team is made up of two main elements: experienced pilots who have come from the airlines or from the RAF, and graduate engineers, mostly with flying experience and representing a wide range of specialist sciences. Some will also have practical experience in the study of human behaviour and behind them all are such resources as the Metallurgy of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, the fuel system testing facilities at the Cranfield Institute, and the Home Office's Institute of Aviation Medicine at Farnborough.

On site, the team will already have divided up into separate units and will be going through a well-practised and meticulous programme of investigation, much of it ignoring all conjecture.

"First, they will take aerial photographs of everything exactly where it stands," Taylor says. "And, wherever possible, they will leave everything where it is, rather than collect it together. When an aircraft breaks up in the air, its parts will be severely damaged. Then they are damaged still more when they hit the ground. The last thing you want to do is damage them still further by scooping them up and piling them into a lorry."

Even though the crew in this case died in the crash, one team will interview other crews who were flying in the area to find out if there were any abnormal meteorological disturbances. Others will be examining both the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder which, despite its familiar name of the black box, is painted bright orange for easier discovery.

Then there is a complete assessment to be made of all the weather conditions along the route from London and air traffic tapes to be examined — for, although there were no messages from the cockpit in this case, sometimes the faintest click can be detected which would indicate an open microphone.

This, in turn, could indicate a suspicious time lag between the cabin crew going silent and the plane disintegrating.

Another group will look at the loading of the aircraft, both people and baggage, and yet another at all structural and maintenance records.

They will all work entirely independently and, during the first few days of the investigation, meet every evening to exchange notes. At the end of all that, 99 per cent of the wreckage can be forgotten about, with only the critical sections going to the materials department at RAF Farnborough for analysis.

The Cranfield course is attended by British AAIB members and investigators from the world's smaller aviation countries, as well as delegates from major airline

countries such as Canada and Australia. All of them are put through a rigorous programme of detection.

They spend time sifting through crash wreckage, merely recording what they find without attempting to reach any conclusions, and also watching films of mock-up crashes. "This not only enables them to examine each other's eye-witness accounts, but also reveals to them just how inaccurate and contradictory those accounts can be, however well-intentioned. It is vitally important for investigators to learn how to interpret witness information and to realize that it can never be fully acceptable without corroboration," Taylor says.

In a full mock-up crash by a light aircraft on the airfield at Cranfield, the investigators are

provided with air traffic tapes and eye-witness reports and significant pieces of wreckage are deliberately sited some distance away from the immediate crash area. The would-be detectives are also taken through the jungle of international agreements which dictate the procedure when an aircraft is built in one country, registered in another and crashes in a third.

"Uncovering the critical cause of the accident is only the beginning of the trail," Taylor says. "What led up to it and what followed as a consequence are just as important, as well as discovering why the fault proved a disaster. After all, aircraft are designed to absorb considerable damage while still keeping airborne until an emergency landing can be achieved. "And often the investigation

has to go beyond the point of simply identifying the cause, to make absolutely sure that other factors were not involved. For example, in the BEA Vanguard crash in Belgium in 1971, it was quickly established that metal corrosion had weakened the rear pressure bulkhead and the air passing through blew the tailplane up like a balloon before tearing it off. It was still necessary, however, to try to find out whether the aircraft had been manoeuvring violently at the time, thus putting exceptional pressure on the bulkhead."

Information provided by the investigators often leads to changes in aviation procedure. It was not until the crash at Lusaka, in Zambia, in 1977, when the tailplane came off a Boeing 707 and massive metal fatigue was

found to be the cause, that increasingly regular checks were demanded on the condition of "geriatric jets".

"The metal fatigue had never been picked up by routine inspections, because the longer an aircraft remains in service, the more confident people tended to become in its durability," Taylor says.

It is nearly always the detailed examination of the wreckage on the ground which provides the definitive cause of any crash.

Which is why Taylor re-emphasized yesterday the appeal to treasure hunters to hand over their collections at Lockerbie. "And, even if they do it anonymously, they should attach a ticket indicating exactly where it was found. Such information could still provide the vital clue."

There is a point in the life of all parents when it becomes impossible to hide the fact that they lack the knowledge, or the honesty, or both, to answer their children's questions fully.

Parents react to this exposure of fallibility either by blustering, changing the subject, being economical with the truth, feigning migraine or referring the question to their partner. Barry Weightman started a newspaper.

It is called *Early Times*, is aimed at young people between four and 17, and will celebrate its first year of publication on January 13. The questions which stumped him came from his three young children, Katherine, David and Christopher, aged 12, 10 and 7 respectively, and they included variations on the classic poser: "Daddy, what's the difference between nuclear power and nuclear energy?"

At that time, which was two years ago, Weightman was a 42-year-old lecturer in mechanical engineering at Imperial College, London. He had been convinced by his children, in the most practical way, that there was a gap in the market for a serious but not

A big scoop for children

Alan Franks reports on a best-seller newspaper by, and for, young people

over-sold children's newspaper. So he talked to a journalist friend from his days as a student at King's College, London, drew up a business plan and persuaded friends and colleagues to contribute to a starting capital of £100,000.

He began by printing a run of 50,000 copies, which sold out. One year on, he sells that number regularly and reckons that, because of the natural elements of family in school in the readership, each copy of *Early Times* is seen by five or more people.

His specially founded company, Garth Publications, is now making a modest profit. The present editor is Robert Dunkley, aged 37, who has come from the *Reading Chron-*

icle group of local papers and now has an editorial staff of three, all in their twenties. In the traditional manner of editors, he considers his publication to be nothing less than "the most influential newspaper in the country".

"We are dealing with important world issues for an audience whose minds are in the formative years. We cover those things that are going to be the crucial issues in the decades ahead."

One of the most successful and widely published features has been the innovation of the Press Gang, which any reader can join by completing an application form. Through this network of fledgling freelancers, Dunkley receives about

100 reports weekly of a broad range of events up and down the country.

The Gang's most celebrated assignment was the interviewing of the Prime Minister in June at 10 Downing Street by four of its members.

More recently, a small corps has made a four-day visit to the United States, covering a Press conference at the White House, interviewing an astronaut, visiting the offices of the *Washington Post*, going to a police station in Manhattan.

An even more unusual proposition beckons in the coming year, for the Moscow press agency Novosti has invited a delegation to visit the Soviet Union.

"We do get complaints occasionally," Weightman says. "I had a chap ringing up the other day to complain about an article on Santa Claus. His objection was that it could be read by a young child in such a way as to suggest that Father Christmas didn't exist. I took that very seriously indeed."

Alan Franks. © A special 12-page edition of *Early Times* is published free with *The Times* on Tuesday.



A SMILE COSTS NOTHING. UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS NOT QUITE TRUE.

It's easy to say the best things in life are free. Especially when you're well-fed, well-housed and well looked after.

But many of the children and young people we work with at The Children's Society have less than their fair share of life's advantages.

We know exactly how to put smiles on their faces. But it all costs money. Just imagine how much it costs to run family centres, in underprivileged or inner city areas.

To run refuges and advice centres for young runaways living rough on the streets. Or houses in the community where young people who are disabled can lead as near to ordinary lives as possible.

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Once upon a perfect time...

Most people look forward to Christmas, but this should not allow us to forget those in our community for whom it represents a period of desolation, a time when they are cut off from their normal source of consolation. For MPs, the ten-day Christmas recess comes as a bitter blow. Mercilessly locked out of the Chamber, in which they have grown used to setting the world to rights, they roam their constituencies like men adrift, their opinions unheeded and unsought.

Last Tuesday, with only two condemning days left, a group of 54 MPs managed to cram in a bit of last-minute condemnation when one chanced upon a children's book called *Abigail On The Beach*. "Unsuitable," gasped Mr David Tredinnick (Cons, Bosworth) as his 53 sensitive friends elbowed in to have a look, too.

In *Abigail On The Beach* a six-year-old girl says to two boys: "You touch one of my towers and I'll get my daddy to hang you both upside down by the heels. He's in the Mafala. Oh, horror! Meanwhile, Abigail's daddy is drinking

"three cans of beer". Oh, shame on Abigail's daddy! The author does not even have the sense to suggest that it is a low-alcohol beer, of the type favoured by Mr Bottomley. "I think that it would encourage a young child to think drinking beer was a nice thing to do," Mr Tredinnick commented. Oh, the wicked lies of Abigail's publishers!

The 54 MPs who signed the Early Day Motion calling on Collins to withdraw the book have now done everything they possibly can to prevent marauding bands of six-year-old alcoholics and their Mafia fathers terrorizing our beaches. But all decent people will wish them to take their campaign of condemnation much, much further.

Already, a special commission has been set up to investigate widespread violence trading under the title of "children's entertainment". In January Mr Douglas Hurd

will release a "Freedom from Fairytales" White Paper which will herald a crack-down on this type of "entertainment." Among his likely targets are: ● *Goldilocks*. The first scene — in which a young girl is guilty of breaking and entering a home owned by three bears — must in future be rewritten to include her arrest by an astute member of Neighbourhood Watch. In subsequent scenes, the three bears will be seen eating their porridge in peace.

● *Snow White*. This tale involves a poisoned apple. The Government would like to make it clear that there is no such thing as a poisoned apple, though the young, sick and elderly should avoid all apples, and everyone else should cook apples for at least 25 minutes before eating them, or otherwise send them straight to Armenia.

● *Georgy Porgy*. This wholly unsuitable nursery rhyme in which Mr G. Porgy, unemployed, indecently assaults young women and then tries to evade arrest must on no account be recited in the home. This restriction also applies to "London Bridge Is Falling Down", which erroneously suggests structural faults in a monument regularly inspected by the Ministry of the Environment, "Oranges and Lemons", which includes scenes of mass decapitation, and "Three Blind Mice" which, following complaints from the RSPCA, has been deemed "gratuitously violent".

Leader of the special commission, Sir Humphrey T. Dumteigh, MP for the safest Conservative seat in the country, already claims to have witnessed far worse. "I have seen elderly, defenceless ladies shut in cupboards by transvestite wolves, young girls mercilessly tormented by their older sisters, senior citizens thrown into blazing furnaces by children and a young girl and boy going up a hill and falling from a great height, with serious injury," he says. "Whatever happened to old-fashioned children's entertainment?"



CRAIG BROWN

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

'Racist' aunt made after man stabbed

ban on icy fees

TV going to satellite

NEWS: See more from these... BIRTHS: On December 20th 1988, to Suzie and Richard, a daughter, Rachel Elizabeth...

DEATHS: On December 20th 1988, at 10.30am, after a long illness, Mrs. Joan Mary...

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES: On December 22nd, 1988, to the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: In memory of my dear mother, Mrs. Mary Jane...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A GREAT CHALLENGE PROFIT FROM HUMAN VALUES

Did you read about this great challenge in The Times last week? Now that the challenge is out in the open...

FARHAD HORMOZI: GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND

THE BUDDHA: The man pass by. Night drive over. Stages of life in burn abandon us...

MEMORIAL SERVICES: LORD WARE - A Memorial Service will be held at West Park Unitarian Church...

BIRTHDAYS: MRS. ANNE FRANKS, Congratulations on your 60th birthday...

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: In memory of my dear mother, Mrs. Mary Jane...

SERVICES: CHRISTMAS SERVICES from Hendon Baptist Church...

SERVICES: HELENA INTERNATIONAL. Established 1974. The international service for individuals of the highest caliber...

WANTED: WE WISH to purchase decorative items, furniture, etc. for our business...

FOR SALE: ON THE 1ST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME A PIANO IN A FEAR TREE...

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FLATSHARE: Flatmates Selective Sharing. Well established introductory service...

RENTALS: KATHINI GRAHAM LIMITED. Wish their clients a very happy Christmas.

LANDLORDS: You will remember we recently published a notice...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: IT'S ALL AT TRAVELERS. Worldwide low cost flights...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: NEW YEAR/HAM. Excellent snow excursions...

U.K. HOLIDAYS: INSTANT service flight, London Kensington...

SUPER SECRETARIES: SECRETARIES for Architects & Designers...

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS: CHALEY BRILLS. We need excellent cooks...

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Archaeology Paradox of the glorious city that became a ghost town

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

The mysterious Maya, creators of a unique civilization 2,000 years ago in the jungles of Central America...

Latest wills

Mr John Noel Lysberg Barber, of London SW10, author and journalist...

Mr Geoffrey Bendyshe Layton, of Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,601,574 net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALE, SALE, SALE. Britain's best selling range of pianos now offered at sale prices.

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Can you always get your copy of The Times? Dear newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times

Royal Society of St George. A City of Westminster branch of the Royal Society of St George has been formed...

Help MEDICINE. We need your help to continue vital work - for cure, care, prevention and rehabilitation.

FESTIVE SEASON DEADLINES. NEW YEAR. The Sunday Times - January 1st - We will be publishing...

PUBLIC NOTICES. CHARTY COMMISSION. The Charity Commission for England and Wales has received...

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Change of diet

Like over-worked doctors, Christmas cooks and television schedulers have long relied on repeat prescriptions. The new(ish) Oxley lady has frequently tried to convince us that crumbling that famous dark brown substance fresh from its silver paper is the way to make repeats of Christmas turkey go down a treat. Even dark brown substances would not, however, enable us to stomach the reappearance of certain Christmas television turkeys.

Having recognized that music is a business, Aswad have at last won the recognition they deserve, David Sinclair writes

The genial face of reggae

This was the year when Aswad finally made good. In a single bound, the reggae trio from West London converted a cult following and 13 years of hard work into No. 1 hit status with the breezy lovers' rock singalong "Don't Turn Around". They became pop stars, seemingly overnight, and suddenly these front-line roots musicians, whose personal image-building did not even run to putting their faces on most of their own album covers, were to be seen cheerfully answering the guest telephones on Saturday morning children's television.



Despite star status, Gad, left, and Zeb see themselves as "musicians who are being appreciated, at last"

"It was a bit difficult to do that," says the tall, soft-spoken drummer and singer of "Don't Turn Around", Drummer Zeb. "Really, you just have to be yourself and take it in the light-hearted way it is and to try and come across to the kids. A lot of people have got the image of Rastax as fearsome, frightening... Doo! let your kids see them. A lot of times in the past when we've done interviews, the reporters used to come to the interview shaking, not knowing what to expect, visibly nervous."

Had there been any change since they were kids - any improvement? "As you get older you learn how to talk to the police, how to handle them. You grow up deal with it. If you get stopped by the police and you start abusing them straight away and he starts abusing you straight away, then there's no way it's going to end peacefully. But for the young kids today, it's just the same as when we were young, probably worse."

In the wake of "Don't Turn Around", Aswad has released a "best of" collection which is a musical summary of the band's career from the first single, "Back In Africa" (1976), to the present. Rubbing shoulders with the light, elegant harmonies of songs like "Need Your Love" and "Give A Little Love" are numbers with a more intense spiritual and political dimension. "Rainbow Culture" is a homage to the Rastafarian faith and "Set Them Free" is one of many songs that address the turmoil in South Africa.

Zeb adds: "Musically reggae and punk were totally different. Punk was harsh; it didn't have any harmony. Reggae music has a lot of harmony and a lot of rhythm. So there was a tension. We did the Chelmsford punk festival and as soon as we came on stage they started to throw toilet rolls and tomato ketchup bottles, which we didn't like at all. The organizer said 'They love you. That's how they show their appreciation'. But frankly, that wasn't the kind of appreciation we were looking for."

They're still in chains. They're still being locked up. Hopefully, by persistent artists knocking on the door, those gates will be swung open. They need our support."

Return of a winner

THEATRE

The Wizard of Oz Barbican

A big hit at the Barbican last Christmas, Jan Judge's production returns, substantially recast, and radiating the confidence of proven winner. Seeing the show for the first time, I am most struck by the completeness of its adaptation into theatrical terms. Retaining Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg's music and lyrics, John Kane has reorganized the material as though it had first been written for the stage. In place of a celluloid fantasy world, all the effects are rooted in the traditional stage mechanics of traps, red fire, and wire flying. And, given the moral of Frank Baum's story - that the land of heart's desire lies in your own back yard - it makes more sense to see Dorothy clearly staying in the same place than taking off over the rainbow on a Kansas dust storm.



Far from home: Dorothy (Gillian Bevan) realizes that this is not Kansas

have been rethought as musical theatre numbers so that each friend Dorothy meets on the road has his own backing chorus - the Scarecrow, a trio of Runyonque apple trees (who could be taking a vacation from Miss Adelaide's Hot Spot) for the Tin Man. With the exception of the witch's flying monkeys and Dorothy's scene-hogging mangel, there is not a fairy tale animal in sight.

Dorothy, low on charm, but vocally spot on. The undoubted star is Trevor Peacock's Cowardly Lion, who gets over his own rainbow in "If I Were King" while the others hand him gift-wrapped regalia. Paul Greenwood's rubber-limbed Scarecrow and Simon Green's dustbin-shouldered Tin Man adapt the exuberant choreography (by Lindsay Dolan) to their own special range of movement.

The Zoo of Tranquillity Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

The first time I saw Sylvester McCoy, back in the 1970s, a live ferret was dropped into his trousers and a stop-watch ticked off the number of seconds he was prepared to let it roam around there. Clearly the man who will risk so much to entertain a crowd is game for anything, he will even

play Dr Who; but not all his clownish enterprises are mock erudition can make Mark Rose's illustrated lecture on automata into an entertainment.

Irving Wardle's lecture on the history of mechanical sculpture with the help of Richard Cuming in the role of a mechanical lecturer. A mechanical doll simultaneously stirring a cup of tea and swatting a fly is held aloft, and similar toys follow it.

A Happy Christmas to all our generous friends. May the light of your shining compassion be reflected by joy in your hearts. SISTER SUPERIOR. ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA

Sculpture's new lease of life

The classical figure is making a quiet comeback, Simon Tait writes

"In you we behold the three great and long undetected principles of Grecian art: simplicity, calm and concentration," wrote Lord Lytton in a eulogy of the sculptor John Gibson, whose work is a centrepiece of the permanent new sculpture display at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, which the Arts Minister opened this month. Gibson, who died in 1866, was one of our leading figure sculptors; his work was admired and celebrated throughout the century, not least by Queen Victoria. Liverpool was his home town, though he lived and worked in Rome for most of his life, but the Walker's £200,000 investment in creating a gallery for its great collection of natural sculpture, half of which has not been seen for 50 years, is a gamble.

And the possible saviour of the Gibson tradition, which goes back to the classic Greek, is Royal Doulton. Three years ago, the company opened the Sir Henry Doulton School of Sculpture with Frink as one of its trustees. The second two-year course, which has just begun, had 800 applicants for the seven places; for the next there are already 2,000.



Echoes of ancient Greece: the new display at the Walker Art Gallery

"We didn't need great artists for our kind of work; we needed people with ability and the basic skills and disciplines of representational sculpture, and we weren't finding it," Ledger says. "We were suffering from the madness of the Seventies, when art school training was just an extension of the ego."

Compensation from a splendid cast

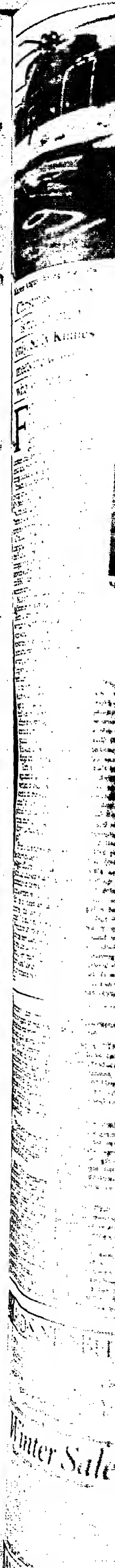
OPERA

Die Walküre Teatro Comunale, Bologna

Wagner's operas used to be rare in Italy, but this year has seen Der Fliegende Holländer in Milan, Tristan in Florence, and the entire Ring in Turin. Now the Teatro Comunale in Bologna - unrivalled last season for musical excellence by any Italian house except La Scala - has launched a splendidly sung Walküre as part two of a four-year plan.

The production is designed and directed by Pier-Alli, who according to the programme has only one name - just like Wotan (or, come to think of it, God). He uses a gauze across the front of the stage as a cinema screen for the projection of symbols and action footage; the singers are often invisible behind it. To give some idea of the range and depth of Pier-Alli's symbolism, I cite some examples: when Siegmund and Sieglinde share the mead, the film pans across the outside of the hut, paying particular attention to the window-frames; when spring arrives, unidentified flying objects reminiscent of autumn leaves swirl about; at Wotan's invocation of the redeeming hero, a masked figure on a white horse fills the screen; and in the final, tender moments of Wotan's farewell, we watch a film of Siegfried uncovering the face of the sleeping Brünnhilde.

Robert Hale in Die Walküre the voice of a great Wotan



INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ ALLO ALLO: Stage version of the comedy series: Gordon Keys, Carmen Silveira and all the familiar jokes.
★ BRIGADOON: OK revival of Lerner and Loewe's misty Scottish musical.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1188) ... ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072) ... ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443)

OUT OF TOWN

BRISTOL: ★ Beyond Therapy: Christopher Durang's sprightly comedy opens Bristol's first pub theatre.
★ BRIGADOON: OK revival of Lerner and Loewe's misty Scottish musical.

FILMS

Also on national release
★ Advance booking possible
★ AU REVOIR, LES ENFANTS (Pop: Louis Malle's moving, semi-autobiographical drama, set in a provincial boarding school in the last months of the Second World War.



In tune: the choir of Kings College Cambridge prepare for their annual festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

O come all ye faithful

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College, Cambridge is for many people as integral to Christmas as the Queen's speech. Over the decades Families have tuned their radios - and later switched on the television to hear the Christian message spelled out and the traditional carols sung by some of the purest voices in the land.

CONCERTS

★ LEOPOLD LEROY, ETCs: Richard Hickox conducts the LSO in such old favourites as Leopold Mozart's Toy Symphony, Leroy Anderson's Slough Ride, Rimsky-Korsakov's Christmas Eve on a Stormy Sea, and the choruses and intermezzi from Beethoven's Coriolan.

ROCK

★ SQUEEZE: South London wide-boys' Christmas knock-out.
★ MOTORHEAD: The grandfathers of speed metal.

JAZZ

★ GARY GLITTER: The seasonally active Baccoli man, still the leader of rock's pantomime tendency.
★ DURAN DURAN: A previous teenybop generation's equivalent to Bros, struggling to gain adult credibility.

WALKS

LONDON BENEATH THE STREETS: Meet Blackbirds tube, 11.30am, £3 (01-837 4281).

GHOSTS, GHOULS AND HAUNTED TAVERNS: meet St Paul's tube, 7pm, £3 (01-837 4281).

GALLERIES

E H SHEPARD (1879-1976): See 02000.
★ 100 YEARS OF ART IN BRITAIN: This gallery's centenary is celebrated with an exhibition of works representing each year of its existence.

FOR CHILDREN

SANTA SPECIALS: Aboard steam-hauled trains, Father Christmas hands out presents to children, punch to adults, mince pies to the staff.

OTHER EVENTS

LATIMERIA CHALUMBAE - A LIVING FOSSIL: Just opened at the Natural History Museum, a special exhibition about the extinct fish, the coelacanth.

BOOKINGS

REC AT THE BARBICAN: New productions of The Churchyard Play and Three Sisters; also The Merchant of Venice and The Taming of the Shrew.

TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

Table with columns for LONDON, UNITED STATES, and OUTSIDE LONDON, listing film titles and their respective ratings.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20
SONTAG (b) A woman's knitted cap, tied down round the waist, from the German singer Lindy Statham (1906-54).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent
The above position is taken from the game between Anderssen (White) and Kieseritzky (Black) played in London 1851.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1753

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include 'Cleaning lady (3,3)', 'Classical (6)', 'Vlad the Impaler character (7)', etc.

ENTERTAINMENTS

APOLLO THEATRE: Broadway Avenue, London EC2A 4PU.
★ ME AND MY GIRL: Musical comedy.
★ THE WIZARD OF OZ: Musical.

THEATRE

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Large vertical advertisement for 'RE-RO THE THERMABOND' featuring a woman's face and promotional text.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax AM. 6.40 Late Error in Moving Vanities (b/w). 7.00 Breakfast Time with Sally Magnusson and John Stapleton. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Regional news and travel reports at 7.37, 7.57 and 8.47. 8.30 The Flintstones (r). 8.55 Regional news and weather. 9.00 News and weather followed by The Canterville Ghost. Animated ghost story. 9.25 St Nicholas and the Children. Two children have to journey through a haunted forest in order to find food. 9.50 Henry's Cat (r). 10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (r). 10.30 Playboys. 10.50 Paddling (r). 11.00 Five to Eleven with Judi Dench. News and weather followed by A Children's Film Foundation drama about a young Eskimo boy with the facility to generate vast amounts of electricity. Directed by Frank Ozborn. 12.00 News and weather followed by A Song For Christmas introduced by Philip Schofield. 12.55 Regional news and weather. 1.00 One O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Weather. 1.20 Neighbours. Daphne finally loses her temper with Eileen. 1.50 Film: One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing (1978) starring Peter Ustinov, Helen Hayes and Derek Nimmo. A Walt Disney comedy adventure about the plot by the British Chinese to regain possession of a top secret formula. Directed by Robert Stevenson. (Coefax) 3.25 The Pink Panther Show 3.45 Cartoon. 3.50 Cartoons. Young people's stories answered by Sophie Aldred, Stephen Johnson and children from Wharfedale Primary School. 4.00 Eurovis. 4.30 The Satellite Show.

BBC2

- 9.00 Cee-fax. 12.00 Film: Browner's Millions (1944, b/w) starring Dennis O'Keefe, Helen Walker and June Havoc. A man inherits \$8 million on condition that he spends a million of it within two months. Directed by Allan Dwan. 1.30 Cartoon. 1.55 Pie in the Sky (r). 1.40 Under the Sea. The three masked barque Gorgon's Foot (r). 2.00 News and weather followed by Sport on Friday which affords the chance of picking the sporting highlights of the year. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50. 4.00 Laurel and Hardy in Come Clean (b/w) a 1931 short in which the two heroes save a lady of dubious morals from a watery grave. Directed by James W. Home. 4.30 Film: Bohemian Girl (1936, b/w) starring Laurel and Hardy as two gypsies who find themselves guardians of a kidnapped young woman. Directed by James W. Home and Charles Rogers.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with The Morning Show produced by Richard Keys and Kathy Rochford; 7.00 News followed by Good Morning Britain presented by Mike Morris and Kathy Rochford; 8.00 News; 9.00 News and Wacday with Timmy Mallett. 9.25 Lucky Ladders. Game show hosted by Lesley Bennett. 9.55 Thames news and weather. 10.00 He-Man and the Masters of the Universe (r). 10.25 Disney Cartoon. The Oscar-winning The Country Cousin, made in 1938. 10.40 This Morning - It's Christmas presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Includes national news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by weather. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.15 Santa Barbara. The concluding episode of the glossy soap. 1.00 News at One with Julia Somerville. 1.20 Thames news and weather. 1.30 Currents includes a report on the stress among clergyman at Christmas time. 2.00 The Bill. Omnibus edition (r). 2.55 Home Country. 3.00 What's My Line? Odd occupations panel game introduced by Angela Ripston. The afternoon shows are Jill Cooper, Roy Hudd, Simon Williams and Jill Johnson. 3.25 Thames news and weather. 3.30 Series 10. Australian family drama serial Crash a Grape with Stu Francis. It's a puno time and among those taking part are Jim Stewart, David Good, Sean Kelly and Paul Shane. 4.30 Sooby Dooby (r). 4.45 Previews visits Boulogne at the time when St Nicholas arrives in the town; and Andi Peters meets children taking part in a special pantomime.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 Film: It's a Gift (1934, b/w) starring W. C. Fields as a hanged, hanged, hanged man who sells up in order to buy an orange grove in California. Directed by Norman Z. McLeod. 10.48 The Gingerbread Man. A. A. Milne's story about David Wood, set on an antique kitchen dresser, performed by the Whirligig Theatre (r). 12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news. 1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. 2.00 Film: Lord of the Rings (1978). An animated version of Tolkien's tale set in a mythical world. Among those providing the voices are Christopher Guard and William Squire. Directed by Ralph Bakshi. 4.30 Film: Cas. The grand final of the quiz show. 6.00 Mork & Mindy. American comedy series. 6.30 Redbrick. Series on life at Newcastle University (r). (Oracle) 6.00 News starring Bernardine Peters and Christopher Rose.

King of the singers



Unforgettable: Nat King Cole, a popular entertainer and man who had to tolerate racial hatred and insults (BBC2, 9.00pm)

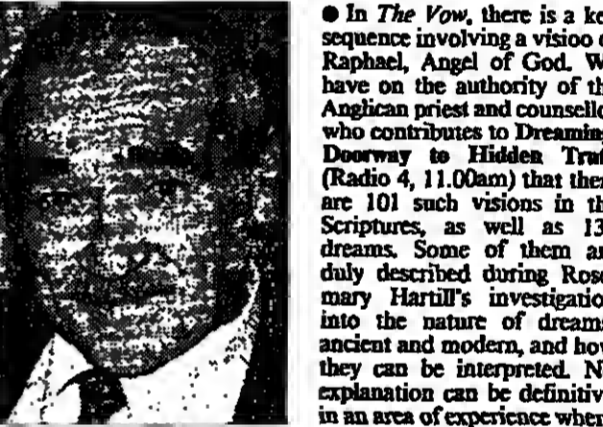
TELEVISION CHOICE

Asked in Arena (BBC2, 9.00pm) to choose their favourite Nat King Cole song, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Harry Belafonte and Oscar Peterson all come up with a different answer. Which must say much for the breadth of Cole's appeal. As for Cole the man, no one in an ample 90-minute profile can find a word to say against him. He really does seem to have been as sweet and gentle and tolerant as his family and friends say he was. Sadly, he had an awful lot to be tolerant about. It is difficult to realize that only 30 years ago, an entertainer as talented and dignified and non-political as Cole could arouse such racial hatred. He had the word "nigger" burnt into his lawn and in Birmingham, Alabama, he was roughed up on stage. His television show, though popular with the public, folded because the sponsors withdrew their support. The man from Max Factor explained that "the Negro didn't sell our lipstick." Said Cole, more in sorrow than anger: "Madison Avenue is afraid of the dark." Cole was bigger than all the insults and his career was as successful as any black entertainer's up to that time. Fortunately, much of it has been preserved on film and if the programme is stronger on narrative than analysis, the raw material is there in abundance. Footage of concert performances is supplemented by clips from a 1950s film topic and delightful remembrance of Cole's obviously reluctant appearance on This Is Your Life. The Cole family - brothers, sisters, widow Maria, daughter Natalie - is extensively interviewed. Though it happened nearly 24 years ago, his early death is still deeply felt.

Fritz Lang, whose dark and fatalistic vision first emerged in the German silent cinema of the 1920s and later (courtesy of Hitler) transferred to Hollywood, is celebrated with a season of films on Channel 4. It begins tonight with a contrasting double-bill of the 1926 science fiction epic Metropolis (10.50pm), in the restored and tinted version with a rock score by Giorgio Moroder, and the 1944 American thriller, The Woman in the Window (12.25am). To come are M (December 29), with Peter Lorre as the child murderer hunted down by his fellow criminals, Spencer Tracy in Fury (December 27) and Henry Fonda as the doomed gangster of You Only Live Twice (December 30). The concluding film is Hangmen Also Die (January 1) which was co-scripted by Bertolt Brecht.

Peter Waymark

A sacrificial tapestry



Ray Smith: one of our most versatile actors (R3, 9.20pm)

RADIO CHOICE

Only Welsh-speakers will know much of the texture of Saunders Lewis's original language in Amyn ac Amig survives in Tony Comran's English version, The Vow (Radio 3, 9.20pm), but my Anglo-Italian ears picked up many subtle colours with strands of gold running through them. I kept thinking of some rich medieval tapestry, a pictorial process much assisted by the score written for the play by the Welsh composer William Mathias. And, of course, the play itself is set in medieval times, though its roots lie in Genesis and the story of Abraham's sacrificial test of faith. In The Vow, Saunders Lewis's Abraham is the principal's mood, one of the principal's mood, a virtuous actor, bound to another knight (Bernard Lloyd) by a compact forged on holy ground. You can infer

Peter Davalle

Advertisement for Paul Simon's 'Graceland' tour, featuring a photo of Paul Simon and text: 'Paul Simon: highlights of the Graceland tour (CA, 7.55pm)'.

Advertisement for 'VARIATIONS' featuring a list of TV programmes and channels: 'BBC1, CHANNEL 4, GRACELAND, ITV, TYNE TEES, ULSTER, YORKSHIRE, WYVALES, ISW'.

Large advertisement for 'RE-ROOFING? The THERMABOND Alternative' by Thermabond Roofing Ltd. Includes a diagram of a roof and contact information: 'TEL: 061-488 4042'.

Advertisement for 'WORLD SERVICE' featuring a list of radio programmes and times: '6.58 Weather followed by News Headlines, 7.00 Morning Concert, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.30 News, 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News'.

Advertisement for 'Radio 4' featuring a list of radio programmes and times: '6.58 Shipping Forecast, 7.00 News Briefing, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News'.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Crown Industrial bid for Cundell lapses

Cundell Group, the Chelmsford, Essex, packaging company caught up in a three-way battle, says the bid for the company made by Crown Industrial Holdings has lapsed.

Crown initially bid £28.8 million in cash for Cundell in November, upsetting an earlier agreement between Cundell and Ferry Pickering to merge.

Erskine buys US dealer

Erskine House is buying Edgemont Sales, a Sharp copier dealer in Los Angeles with annual sales of more than \$7 million (£3.9 million).

Rolls stake for Japanese

Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries of Japan has bought a 5 per cent stake in the RB211-524 aero engines being developed by Rolls-Royce.

Cambridge sale plan

Cambridge Instruments, the scientific equipment manufacturer whose interim profits fell by 17 per cent to £2.29 million, has confirmed that it is selling its industrial division.

The group said yesterday that talks are in progress but if the deal is not agreed by March 31 1989, the operation will be closed.

Trust lifts its dividend

Bankers' Investment Trust is paying a fourth interim dividend of 0.66p, making 1.92p for the year to end-October, against 1.6p.

Same again at Radiant

Radiant Metal Finishing, the metal finisher and property developer, is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 1p a share on operating profits of £164,000.

US deals for Davy

Davy Corporation is acquiring two companies in the United States for a total of \$2.95 million (£1.64 million), to be funded by the placement of one million Davy shares at 164p each.

Strategy blot on the MCC picture

TEMPUS

Robert Maxwell is strapped for cash. Few things can be said with any certainty about the affairs of his eponymous quoted vehicle, Maxwell Communication Corporation.

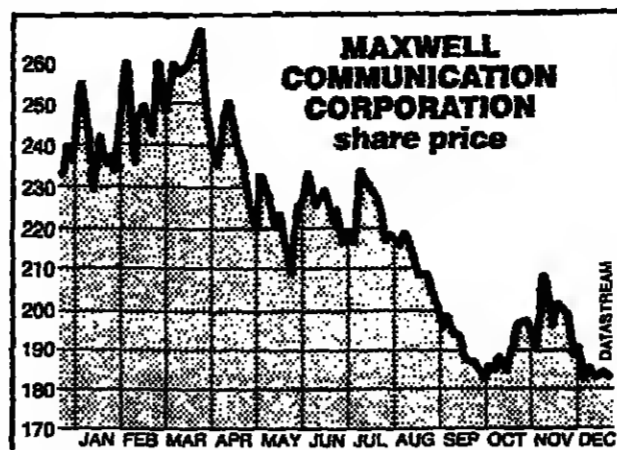
Mr Maxwell's decision to buy back a near-25 per cent stake in BPCO has also raised eyebrows. He is paying just £21.6 million for a quarter of the reconstructed company.

So the £265 million management buyout of BPCO, his commercial printing operation, betrays signs of a deal arranged in haste.

Mr Maxwell's growing credibility problem in the City is reflected by the impossibility of obtaining a firm broker's profits forecast - even Alexander Laing & Cruickshank, his own broker, is unwilling to give a figure.

A charitable estimate would suggest pre-tax profits of £300 million in the year to end-March 1991, once all the dust has settled, the two big acquisitions have been consolidated and disposals made.

This multiple is unlikely to shift upwards much, given the market's belief that any improvement could trigger another hefty rights issue.



MAXWELL COMMUNICATION CORPORATION share price

his textiles group Entrad, the next one could be spectacular. It is no secret that Mr Goldberg's failure to reach an accommodation with Tootal, even though he was briefly on the board, led to a distinctly cool relationship on both sides.

Since then Entrad has restructured its operations radically and is now an investment rather than a trading company. Intriguingly, the stake in Tootal appears to have been bought on behalf of Mr Goldberg and his family rather than through a corporation.

The eventual intentions of the boarding party remain deeply unclear. Entrad is capitalized at a mere fraction of Tootal's £315 million, and it is doubtful whether Mr Goldberg's personal wealth exceeds that of his main vehicle.

Under the guidance of the new chief executive Mr Geoffrey Maddrell, Tootal has concentrated on a simple policy. It been selling no-core businesses, buying from the cheapest sources of supply, mostly in the Far East and beefing up its distribution and marketing effort.

At 121p up 7p Tootal shares are not cheap on trading grounds. Holders should sit tight.

ICI

The passing of 1988 is unlikely to be a source for much regret so far as investors in many of Britain's biggest and best managed companies are concerned. In particular, businesses which suffer from a strong pound have been treated harshly by the stock market.

For two years now, ICI has been losing ground relative to the market despite a reasonable performance in profit terms and a good deal of restructuring which should benefit the group mightily.

Long gone are the days when ICI's shares were regarded as a raging buy whenever its yield approached 6 per cent. These days, even the prospect of a 6.6 per cent return in 1989 fails to stir would-be buyers.

But long-term seekers after under-rated stocks have a good deal to savour at ICI. In the short-term, the setback which appears to be discounted in the share price is unlikely to appear, unless a bout of currency turmoil occurs.

Steel fight set to continue

By Colin Narborough

The West German steel industry is determined to continue its legal battle over £930 million of "illegal" and "excessive" aid to British Steel despite the political reverse the German mills have suffered this week concerning aid to Italy.

The West German Steel Association of Dtl strongly condemned the European Economic Community decision to allow a large payment of fresh aid to Finsider-Ivra, the loss-making, state-owned Italian steelmaker.

British Steel and Finsider have been the twin targets of the largely private-sector German steel industry's campaign to force an end to subsidies in the EEC.

Slowdown in exports for wool textiles

Wool textile exports slowed in October, the £45.9 million in shipments being a decrease of 4.2 per cent compared with the same month last year.

But exports by value in the first ten months of this year are still up nearly 3 per cent at £507 million, said the Bradford National Wool Textile Export Corporation.

Exports of cloth, yarn and combed wool to EEC markets in the ten months were up 8 per cent. Cloth sales have risen 14.4 per cent in the period to £201.9 million, a 6 per cent increase in volume terms.

Brierley 'no longer interested in bank'

Wellington (Renter) - Brierley Investments Ltd is no longer interested in buying the New Zealand government's 84 per cent holding in Bank of New Zealand, according to Mr Paul Collins, group chief executive.

The decision follows the government's rejection on Wednesday of all bids because they were too low. Mr Collins is reported in a newspaper article as saying the company would not make another bid.

Analysts said the bank, which has assets of NZ\$17.6 billion (£6.2 billion), would fetch the government around NZ\$1 billion. A BIL spokesman said it had "given its best shot" in the tender and would not resubmit a bid unless conditions became more favourable.

Holiday Bonus



This week's The Sunday Times magazine comes FREE with The Times on Saturday.

The Times will see you happily through the festive season this year. The Sunday Times Magazine has a special Christmas section with games for the whole family and a Christmas songbook.

The Times is also the only quality newspaper appearing on Boxing Day. And during the holiday week you'll get a FREE special copy of Early Times, the quality newspaper for young people.

Make sure you have a good Christmas. Spend it with The Times.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Wi', 'Spanish holding Royal B.', and 'Appea'.

New Bill sanctions studies into UK companies for foreign regulators

Wider inquiry powers for DTI

By Colin Narborough
Surprise provisions in the new Companies Bill will enable the Government to launch inquiries into companies and institutions in Britain in response to demands from foreign regulators...

Information and extending the purposes for which information may be disclosed. It also foresees a cut in the trigger point for disclosure of interests in a listed company to 3 per cent from 5 per cent...

Mr Maude said there are safeguards for information covered by banking confidentiality, and any information obtained is protected in the same way as that obtained in domestic investigations.

Whether it would be classified as Impressionist or Surrealist, might be best left to the auctioneers. Healey & Baker have carried out the usual routine of property valuations...

Spanish lift holding in Royal Bank

By Richard Thomson
Banco de Santander, the Spanish bank, has raised its holding in Royal Bank of Scotland by 5 per cent to 10 per cent, worth around £100 million.

Kitty Little shares slide 10p on warning of lower profits

By Rosemary Unsworth
Shares in Kitty Little, the decorative fragrance group which came to Unlisted Securities Market last April, fell by 10p to 83p as the company issued a warning that profits would be lower than last year.



Small sign of recovery: Graham Webster, the chairman of Kitty Little, hopes the product will become the brand leader.

London Life may fight on

By Maria Scott
London Life may try to appeal against the Appeal Court's ruling that the vote in favour of its plan to merge with Australian Mutual Provident was invalid.

A most curious position

One of the most curious positions in a British boardroom is to be a non-executive director. It is generally, although by no means universally, agreed that non-executive directors are in some way a "good thing."

Appeal over early water deals

By Colin Narborough
The water companies are to appeal against the High Court ruling on Wednesday that will allow the public sector water authorities to buy into them before privatization.

Avdel bid battle near stalemate

The fight for Avdel, the industrial fasteners producer, included towards stalemate last night as Textron, the white knight counter-bidding against Banner Industries, claimed 42.9 per cent shareholding.

Drexel to face lawsuits after guilty insider plea

The guilty plea by Drexel Burnham Lambert, the US securities house, in the biggest insider trading case in Wall Street history is only the beginning for the beleaguered firm which not only faces a record \$650 million (£361.51 million) fine but also a wave of potential lawsuits.

God to Mammon and back

From one God to another is how Stephen Hargrave, aged 33, a former financial journalist is describing his latest career move.

Leaving the herd

The head of gilt-edged sales and trading at Merrill Lynch, Mr Frank Leonard - no known relation of mine - has, I hear, resigned after a disagreement over policy.

Rolflein returns to P&D

While his ex-employees seem to have formed themselves into a stylish luncheon club as detailed in yesterday's City Diary, Hector Sauts, the new head of equities at stockbroker Phillips & Drew, tells me that not everyone leaves it for good.

Mine host

An intriguing advertisement in the latest edition of the Mining Journal reads: "For sale, in whole or in part, mining company with gold production. Significant profit/revenue potential. Contact Luxembourg (352) 660843."

Half-time loss

Northern Fine Foods saw a £162,000 pre-tax loss in the six months to September 30, from a £336,000 profit previously. Loss per share is 1.8p (3.2p eps). The interim payment is 0.75p.

Firstland drop

Firstland Oil & Gas, the independent oil company, saw a pre-tax loss of £175,000 in the six months to end-June, against a £12,000 profit last time. There is no dividend.

No payout

Pavon International lifted pre-tax profits from £193,000 to £232,000 in the six months to end-August, but is still paying no dividend.

Offer flops

Only 51.4 per cent of the shares offered by American Distributors were taken up by shareholders.

Seat talk

If you know anyone with small children, a child's car seat could make a good Christmas present - as prices may rise next year.

BP sells

BP has sold part of one of its North Sea blocks adjoining the Marathon offshore to its neighbour for an undisclosed sum.

Nationwide Anglia Building Society advertisement including bond placement details and contact information.

Market Megabids PLC advertisement with logo and contact details.

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no longer included in the

U

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, including columns for company names, share prices, and performance metrics. The table is organized into multiple columns and rows, listing various investment funds and their current status.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing unlisted securities, including company names, share prices, and other financial details. The table is organized into columns for company names, prices, and other relevant data.

THIRD MARKET

Table listing third market securities, including company names, share prices, and other financial details. The table is organized into columns for company names, prices, and other relevant data.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling Index, Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, and other Sterling Rates. The table includes columns for currency names and their respective rates.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various currencies, including Ireland, Australia, Canada, and others. The table includes columns for currency names and their respective spot rates.

MONEY MARKETS

Table showing money market rates, including Euro Money Deposits and Gold prices. The table includes columns for deposit types, rates, and gold prices.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts, including company names, share prices, and other financial details. The table is organized into columns for company names, prices, and other relevant data.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures prices, including FT-SE 100, Three Month Sterling, and other futures contracts. The table includes columns for contract names and their respective prices.

COMMODITIES

Table showing commodity prices, including LONDON FCM, LONDON METAL, and other commodity markets. The table includes columns for commodity names and their respective prices.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to find your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have made an outright or a share of the daily or accumulator price money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Table with 15 columns: No., Company, Group, Cash or Div, High, Low, Bid, Offer, Change, Dividend, Yield, Dividend Yield. Lists various companies like Stovey, Visteo, Sun, etc.

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns for days of the week (MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN) and a Total column.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for High, Low, Bid, Offer, Change, Dividend, Yield.

Table with columns: FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, OVER FIFTEEN YEARS, UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED. Lists various investment options.

Table with columns: BANKS, DISCOUNT HP. Lists various financial institutions.

Table with columns: ELECTRICALS. Lists various electrical companies.

Table with columns: OILS, GAS. Lists various oil and gas companies.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin December 12. Dealings end today. Contango day December 28. Settlement day January 9. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 26)

Table listing companies under categories like BREWERIES, BUILDING, ROADS.

Table listing companies under categories like FINANCE, LAND, FINANCIAL TRUSTS.

Table listing companies under categories like FOODS, CHEMICALS, PLASTICS.

Table listing companies under categories like DRAPERY, STORES, HOTELS, CATERERS.

Table listing companies under categories like INDUSTRIALS A-D, MOTORS, AIRCRAFT.

Table listing companies under categories like SHIPPING, SHOES, LEATHER, NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS.

Table listing companies under categories like MINING, OILS, GAS.

Table listing companies under categories like TEXTILES, TOBACCOS.

Table listing companies under categories like OVERSEAS TRADERS.

Table listing companies under categories like PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING.

Table listing companies under categories like PROPERTY.

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Table listing companies under categories like LEISURE.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000 CLAIMS REQUIRED FOR 38 POUNDS ACCUMULATOR £68,000 CLAIMS BETTER THAN 38 POUNDS CLAIMANTS SHOULD RING 0254-53272

Table listing companies under categories like MINING, OILS, GAS.

Table listing companies under categories like TEXTILES, TOBACCOS.

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Table listing companies under categories like PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING.

Table listing companies under categories like PROPERTY.

Table listing companies under categories like INSURANCE.

© The Exchange & City of London... No significant change.

WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) - Shares were narrowly mixed in early trading yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average was up a point at 2,165.64.

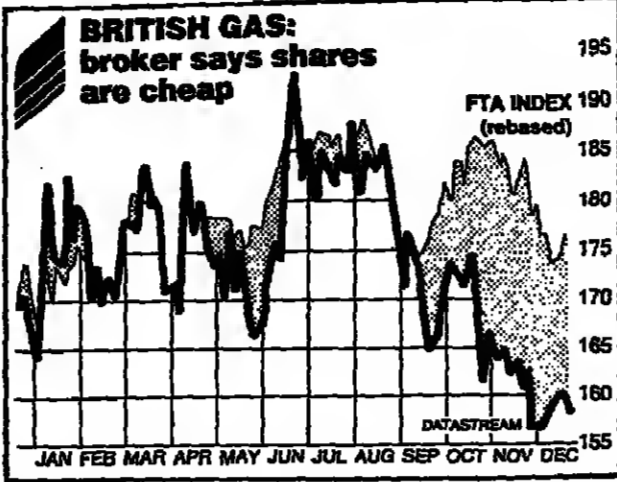
29,774.61. Prices improved on the morning's lacklustre performance during the afternoon to end firmer.

● Tokyo (AP-Dow Jones) - The Nikkei index gained 76.42 points to close at 12,324.15, up 3.14 points, or 0.2 per cent.

STOCK MARKET

Unigate rises to near peak for year on £1bn bid talk

The odds on Unigate, the dairy products and transport group, becoming the first important bid target in the New Year shortened dramatically following another burst of speculative buying which pushed the shares nearer to their high for the year.



BRITISH GAS: broker says shares are cheap

Hillsdown Holdings rose 5p to 233 3/4 after hearing that the powerful Kuwait Investment Office had bought an extra 500,000 shares, taking its holding to 29.4 million shares, or 7.05 per cent.

ville's over-the-counter market, the shares of Bardon, the Leicestershire quarrying and building products group, moved up to the main market.

The FT-SE 100 index, having struggled to establish an early rise of 1.7, finished 3.9 lower at 1,768.7. The narrower FT index of 30 shares also lost a lead to close 2.6 down at 1,432.4.

Table of stock prices for various companies including AMR, ASA, Astra, and others, with columns for company name, price, and change.

Ashted, the plant hire group, rose 5p to 250p on a buy recommendation from Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

look-out for an acquisition as it prepares for 1992 and the single European market. Its name has also been linked with Sir Hector Laing's United Biscuits.

The rest of the equity market spent another lacklustre day. Few investors proved willing to stick their necks out ahead of today's trades after last month's abysmal performance.

After 11 years on Grand

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London traded options including call and put options for various stocks like Astra, Bardon, and British Gas.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table of traditional options for various stocks.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Apollo Metals, BMS, and other companies.

ALPHA STOCKS

Table of alpha stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Advertisement for Talking Point Telephones, featuring cellular phones and fax machines.

Advertisement for Task Communications, offering mobile transportable phones.

Advertisement for Perth, offering guest houses and holiday homes.

Advertisement for Partner required for leisure complex, located in the South Midlands area.

Advertisement for WANTED TO BUY, seeking small building works and maintenance companies.

Advertisement for Teddy Bears, offering a business that keeps a smile on everyone's face.

Advertisement for French Businesses, offering various business opportunities.

Advertisement for LUCKY BEAR, offering a business opportunity.

Advertisement for Countdown to 1992, offering business opportunities for the new year.

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

Advertisement for General car buyers guide, featuring a Ford Granada and a Rover SD1.

Advertisement for New Cars at Discount Prices, offering nationwide service and leasing options.

Advertisement for ITASCA/WINNEBAGO, offering a 1988 basement model with full American spec.

Advertisement for BMW Authorized Dealers, featuring various BMW models.

Advertisement for SERRA ESTATE, offering a 1988 Ford Escort.

Advertisement for BMW 535i SE, offering a 1988 BMW model with various features.

Advertisement for Honda, offering a 1988 Honda Civic.

Advertisement for Lister Classics, offering various classic cars.

Large vertical advertisement for Jaguar and other cars, featuring the Jaguar logo and various car models.

RUGBY UNION: DESPITE VICTORIES IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, SCHOOL BOY SPORT IS RUNNING RISK OF BECOMING AN UNFASHIONABLE RELIC

Secrets of dressing room put on film

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent
There are always times when you wish you could be a fly on the wall...

State school bastions crumble

By Mick Cleary
Over the last few years it has seemed that rugby in schools was set to join free school milk...



Tonchline exchange: Roger Untley, left, and John Adams share scrummaging views while Palmerston sweep aside Harrow

record an 18-0 victory, despite the presence in the Harrow camp of a formidable scrummage...

Davies in position to be shot at Virile Cheshire prove too hot

By Gerald Davies
The mentality of the lynch mob is abroad in Wales. And the man behind it is Jonathan Davies...

Robert Norsier, who took over from Owen in New Zealand, has played very little so far...

Casting vote can be used politically Defence cannot plead wider meaning

Regina v Bradford City Council, Ex parte Wilson
Before Lord Justice Bingham, Mr Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Roch
[elected councillor and in member of the Conservative group on the council.]

Bookbinder v Tebbitt
Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Russell
[Judgment December 8]
Where the defendant had stated at an electoral meeting that £50,000 had been spent on overprinting anti-nuclear statements on school stationery...

Whellans v Chief Adjudication Officer
Worthy v Chief Adjudication Officer
[11] of the Social Security (Unemployment, Sickness and Invalidity Benefit) Regulations (1983 SI No 1598)...

Advertisement for Cavies Desert King Geos, featuring a desert landscape and product information.

CRICKET

Australians hope to emerge from the shadow of Ambrose

From John Woodcock, Melbourne

There is no Christmas present the Australian people might rather have than victory over West Indies in the third Test match starting here tomorrow...

caught off his glove off what I saw described as "a magnificent throat ball" from Bishop. Of the last 23 Tests between the two sides, Australia have won three and West Indies 14...

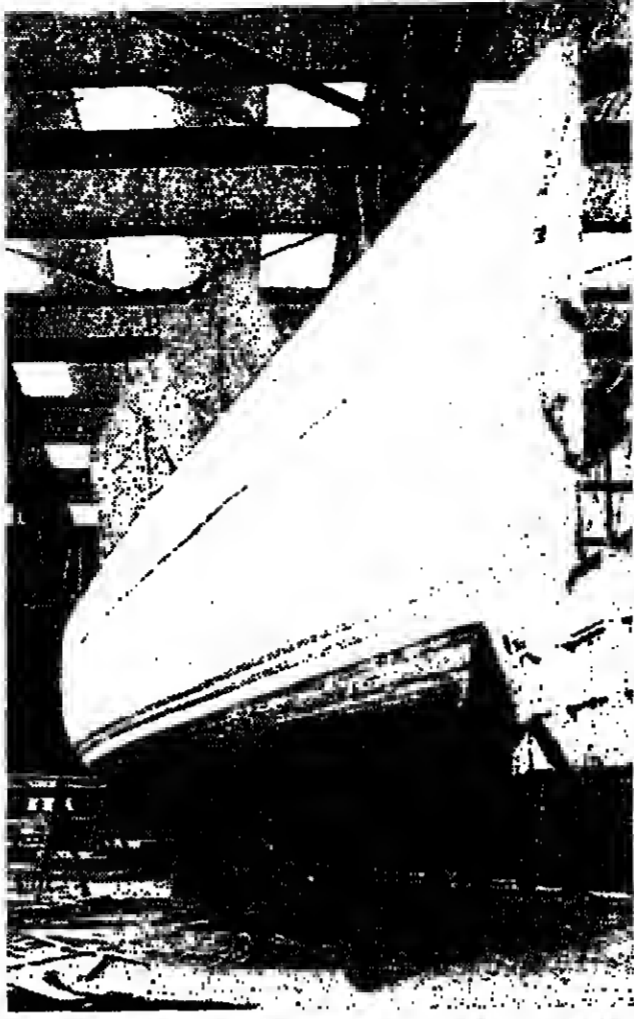
Stalwarts against Richards

Three of Yorkshire's most famous cricketers are opposed to the possible signing by the county of the West Indies captain, Viv Richards...

Parker stands in as Sussex coach

Paul Parker, the Sussex captain, has agreed to take over coaching duties until the county appoints a new chief coach to succeed John Jameson...

Crew will rely on their wits against state-of-the-art yachts



Chequered history: facelift for a yacht that was rotting away

A 32,000-mile adventure of a lifetime

By Barry Pickthall

At noon today Tower Bridge is raised in salute to a band of happy adventurers who have pledged their souls to compete in the 32,000-mile Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race...



Fantastic support: an apprentice from Reckitt and Colman works on a plate for the boat

RUGBY LEAGUE

Fines put gag on outspoken coaches

By Keith Macklin

At first glance, the new punishment for coaches who speak ill of match officials seems severe, the dictatorial and bordering on the undemocratic, since the penalty is instant and allows no defence...

SKIING: AUSTRIANS RECLAIM DOWNHILL SUPREMACY ON FAMOUS COURSE

Daring finish gives Hoeflechner victory

Olympic champion, Leonard Hoeflechner, fastest to the morning practice run, lost time on the middle part of the spectacular, 3,210-metre course but threw caution to the wind on the bottom half to come through to record the seventh downhill victory of his career...

hill standings, and the Austrians fervently hope that their two recent victories do not herald another false dawn.

Musical chairs for real

Thus, the likes of Murphy, Bannister and Ashcroft, and other charismatic coaches with a reputation for after-match comments are going to have their self-control tested to the full.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Country, Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to Piste, Weather (Spm), and other details for various ski resorts.

YACHTING

Merit finishes 200 miles ahead of rivals

By Barry Pickthall

Merit, the Swiss Whitbread maxi skippered by Pierre Fehlmann, was first of the monohulls to reach the Dominican Republic at the end of the Route of Discovery Transatlantic Race.

SPORTS BOOKS: WITTY RECORD OF A COUNTY SUMMER AND CONQUERING THE INTERNATIONAL TOUR

Agnew breaks the mould

Cricket books have been so plentiful, these past few years, that it is asking a lot of any publisher or author to come up with something appealingly different. Just once in a while the mould is broken and this winter, Jonathan Agnew has managed it with Eight Days A Week.

Simplifying the mechanics of golf

It hardly requires Severiano Ballesteros to combine the proverbial hammer and golf club to a very mysterious and puzzling game, causing much frustration for all who play it at every level.

Getting to grips with Sumo

The best-selling martial art book ever, Sumo is a useful but inexpensive exposition of sports technique. It is also visually more impressive, however, is Karate - The Pursuit of Excellence by Jeff Thompson, the former world champion, who demonstrates the main scoring techniques with Pat McKay, who was also world champion and Janice Argyle.

Sumo is turning out to be a prolific author, but his latest volume, The New Adams Guide to Better Judo by Pat McKay, who was also world champion and Janice Argyle.

Merit finishes 200 miles ahead of rivals

Merit, the Swiss Whitbread maxi skippered by Pierre Fehlmann, was first of the monohulls to reach the Dominican Republic at the end of the Route of Discovery Transatlantic Race.

Dubio has on Sco

Musical chairs for real

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